

6<sup>th</sup>  
Edition

# Nursing in Today's World

*Challenges,  
Issues, and Trends*

Janice Rider Ellis  
Celia Love Hartley

Lippincott

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Sixth Edition

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# Nursing in Today's World

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*Challenges, Issues, and Trends*

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# Preface

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*Nursing in Today's World* has always represented a conscientious and diligent effort on our part to present, in a stimulating and engaging format, content that will assist the new graduate to participate effectively in the discipline of nursing. The rapidly progressing body of nursing knowledge, the phenomenal technological advances that have reshaped nursing care, and the colossal changes that have occurred in the health care delivery system continue to demand that the new graduate possess a sound understanding of nursing theory, the ability to think critically, and a command of the psychomotor skills that collectively comprise both the art and science of nursing.

New graduates entering the work world must bring with them a sound understanding of nursing—its heritage, history, trends, struggles, controversies, studies, and contributions. Each of the previous editions had approached this content from the traditional “in the beginning” chronological format. As we deliberated about the sixth edition, we asked ourselves how to present its information to students most effectively, how to assist instructors in squeezing a tremendous amount of material into class hours that always seem too short, and how to facilitate the process of transition from school to career. After considering all these issues, it seemed to us that it was time for a radical update in format. How can students begin to function in today's health care system unless they have some understanding of how that system came to exist and function as it does today? What are the financial factors that are influencing and driving the development and operation of health care delivery? What social and political phenomena and powers are invading health care?

Thus, the sixth edition of *Nursing in Today's World: Challenges, Issues, and Trends* takes a bold and progressive approach to the information one typically finds in “Trends” or “Issues” courses. Unit I introduces students to the health care delivery system, its financing, and the politics that impact upon it. Chapter 1 discusses the various types of institutions and agencies that provide care, from traditional acute care hospitals to community-based clinics and offices. This chapter further addresses the role of our colleagues in the health care system, discussing the contribution of traditional, alternative, and supportive health care providers. Central to all is the role of the nurse. Chapter 2 addresses the financing of health care, describing the various systems for payment from personal out-of-pocket payment to government-supported and managed programs. Cost-containment measures are explored and factors that affect the financing of health care are outlined. Chapter 3 looks at political influences on the health care system, with a special emphasis on the role played by the various nursing organizations. Ways in which nurses can be politically effective, either individually or as a member of an organization, are highlighted.

Unit II brings to the student an understanding of the development of nursing as a

profession. Chapter 4 explores nursing's origins starting with health care in ancient cultures and progressing to the modern health care practices of today. Chapter 5 discusses the development of nursing as a profession, including content related to the characteristics of a profession, the differentiation between the terms profession and professional, the image of nursing, and studies about nursing. The chapter concludes with a section devoted to the traditions that have helped make nursing what it is today. We hope that students will gain an appreciation for the struggles in which nursing has been engaged and the controversies that have existed and continue to exist regarding the profession. Not all questions are answered, nor are they likely to be in the near future. Our challenge is to present this content in a format that will provoke the students' curiosity and provide an incentive for further exploration of the many issues surrounding the nursing profession. Chapter 6 outlines the educational preparation for nursing, discussing the role and preparation of the nursing assistant and the practical (vocational) nurse, as well as the many avenues to preparation for registered nurse roles. Similarities in programs are discussed and alternate forms of education described. The chapter also includes content related to factors that have influenced nursing education, differentiated practice, and forces for change in nursing education.

Unit III of the textbook focuses on legal and ethical accountability. Chapter 7 discusses the various types of credentials found among health care providers and traces the history of credentialing in the United States. The laws governing nursing are reviewed and the role of the boards of nursing are outlined. The chapter concludes with a discussion of the future of credentialing. Chapter 8 explores the legal considerations that impact the practice of nursing, through discussion of both the law in general and the application of legal principles to the profession of nursing. Chapters 9 and 10 discuss the ethical and bioethical issues that impact the practice of nursing. Chapter 9 outlines basic ethical concepts and theories and describes factors that influence ethical decision making. The chapter also explores the application of ethical issues to the profession of nursing and includes a discussion of the chemically impaired professional. Chapter 10 explores the major bioethical concerns with which health care providers wrestle.

Unit IV, the final unit of the textbook, focuses on today's health care world of work. Chapter 11 provides students with information about seeking and securing employment and includes helpful hints about preparing a letter of application and resumé and interviewing for a position. Examples are included that can be adapted for personal use. Chapter 12 discusses the new graduate's participation in the workplace, provides information about the structure of health care organizations, and describes the various patterns of nursing care delivery. The chapter concludes with a discussion of collective bargaining and the issues it presents to the nursing profession.

Each chapter begins with a set of objectives to guide the learning experience followed by a list of key terms that will be used throughout that particular chapter. Each chapter is summarized with key concepts, and critical thinking activities provide students with the opportunity to apply the content of the chapter to typical situations encountered in the health care environment. The cartoon-like illustrations have been a hallmark of the text since the first edition, and through them we hope you will gain a varied visual introduction to nursing issues that will provide some humor, as well as gratification, to your commitment to nursing.

As we have worked on refining the sixth edition, we have appreciated the comments and constructive suggestions offered by fellow educators throughout the country and by the reviewers who made recommendations regarding the content. We will be anxious to hear

from you regarding this new edition and its structure. We thank the many educators who continue to select *Nursing in Today's World: Challenges, Issues, and Trends* as the textbook for your class. We know there are many texts from which to choose. In this very competitive market we appreciate your support and strive to bring to you the book that will best meet your needs.

We must certainly list among our acknowledgments appreciation to our respective husbands, Ivan and Gordon, both of whom encourage and support our efforts and allow the book to take first place on the agenda when that is necessary. Their willingness to take on extra household duties, post express mail, do the shopping, and assist with a myriad of other duties has allowed us to meet publication deadlines. And last, but not least, we wish to thank the editors at Lippincott–Raven for their help and assistance with the text.

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*Celia Love Hartley, MN, RN*

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# Economic and Political Aspects of Health Care Delivery

**H**ealth care in any country is part of the economic and political life of the nation. It reflects much of what is best about life but also serves to point out those areas where serious problems exist.

In this unit we provide a basic overview of the health care delivery system in the United States. The complexity of the system cannot be completely explained in one short unit, but we have tried to focus on the aspects that will best help you put health care issues into context. We have started with the part of the system with which you are probably most familiar: the health care settings that employ nurses. The specific characteristics of these settings—their role in health care, the roles of nurses in these settings, the colleagues with whom nurses work, and alternative health care resources—are the focus of the first chapter in this unit. From there we move to an overview of the financial aspects of the health care delivery system. Understanding the various players in the system will help you analyze specific financial issues as they arise; issues related to access to the system are addressed, as are issues of power and control. Finally, we move to the issue of the political process and how it affects nursing. The political process relates both to government and to the functioning of organizations. Our hope is that you will find an understanding of these various aspects of the health care delivery system relevant to your professional life.

## Unit I



# 1 Understanding the Health Care Environment

*Nurses are experts on reality. No one has roots that penetrate so deeply into our health care institutions. No one sees so much, nor understands so thoroughly. (Joel, 1996)*

## Objectives

*After completing this chapter, you should be able to*

1. Discuss the three ways that health care agencies are classified.
2. Describe the various health care settings including the types of services offered and the roles that registered nurses perform in each.
3. Describe the health care delivery provided in ambulatory care settings and in community agencies.
4. Discuss the roles and interrelationships of the various health care providers in the health care system.
5. Analyze the various issues related to individual health care occupations.
6. Describe the various avenues to alternative health care and analyze their relationship to traditional medical care.

## KEY TERMS

Acute care facility  
Alternative health care  
Community mental health centers  
Complementary therapy  
Herbal medicine  
Homeopathy  
Long-term care facility  
Naturopathy

Nonprofit  
Nursing home  
Osteopathy  
Primary care provider  
Proprietary agency  
Subacute care  
Tertiary care hospital  
Transitional care

It is an exciting but somewhat anxiety-provoking time to be a nurse. The entire health care system reverberates with change. One of the questions you may have is “Where

will I work?" Another may be "What kind of work do I want to do?" Still another may be "Will there be a job for me?" As a new graduate you will want to function within some type of health care agency or organization. An understanding of the various health care agencies and their services, the roles that nurses perform in those agencies, and of the colleagues in other disciplines with whom you will work, will help you to assume your role as a beginning nurse more effectively. As we discuss each type of health care agency, we will point out the roles that nurses play in that agency as well as the type of services it provides. As alternative health care practices grow in popularity with the public, those in the traditional health care system are challenged to understand alternative approaches to health care and to work effectively with clients who choose those resources. In order to help you with this task, we have included a discussion of alternative as well as traditional health care options (Fig.1-1).

## TYPES OF HEALTH CARE AGENCIES

For many years, nursing education focused the attention of students on the acute care hospital because that was where most were employed after graduation. Those planning to move



**FIGURE 1-1**

The many aspects of health care in the United States are not coordinated into a single system.

to other fields were expected to spend a minimum of a year or two in acute care first. By limiting experience almost exclusively to the acute care hospital as a learning environment, the educational process itself ensured that graduates would feel most comfortable seeking employment in the acute care setting.

However, the situation has changed dramatically. As health care has made revolutionary changes, more and more care has moved to settings outside the acute care hospital. The number and variety of long-term care facilities has increased dramatically and now includes rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, assisted-living settings, group homes, and adult care homes. Nursing roles in long-term care are increasingly complex and require a high degree of autonomy. Nursing education has also changed and many of you may have had the opportunity to work in long-term care settings as part of your nursing educational experiences.

Agencies within the community such as home care providers, clinics, offices, and other ambulatory care settings are growing in number. Home care nursing now encompasses a much wider spectrum of client care needs than previously. Caring for some home care clients requires a high degree of skill, but these clients represent a relatively stable population who are able to maintain their status at home as long as adequate support is available. Some clients have acute problems requiring high-intensity services. For example, hospice care enables dying persons to remain at home. Home infusion therapy allows those with complex medication needs to avoid hospitalization. Home care as part of public health has long been included in baccalaureate nursing programs. As home care has changed in focus, more nursing education programs are including experiences in the care of the individual client in the home setting.

Many ambulatory care settings are recognizing that the effective use of registered nurses may provide high-quality care at a cost lower than that provided when the physician does not have the support of professional nurses in addressing the needs of clients. Therefore, more educational settings are providing experiences in ambulatory care for nursing students.

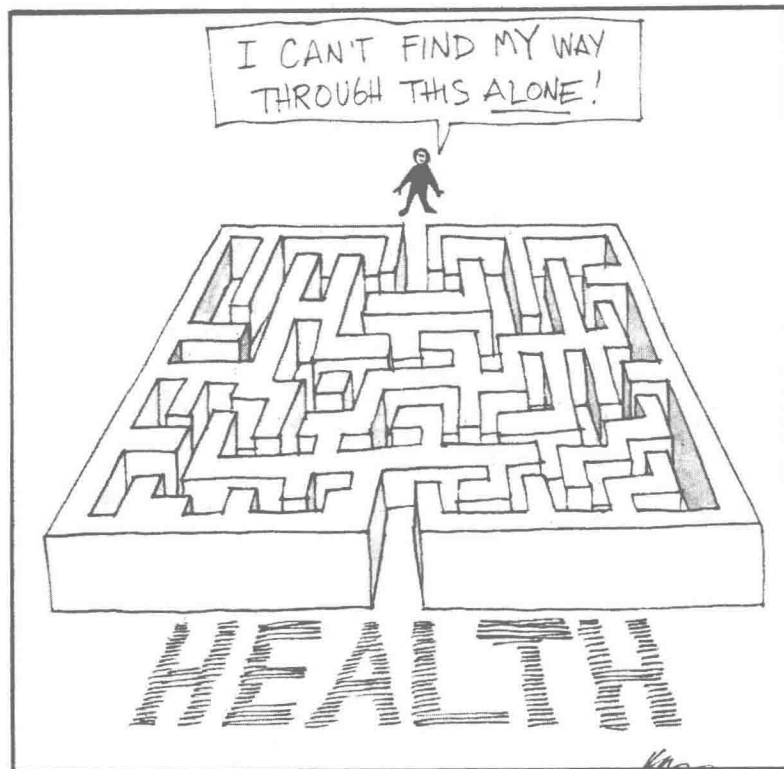
Businesses are recognizing that nurses may fill many roles. The role of the occupational health nurse in providing information on health promotion and preventive care receives increasing emphasis. Experienced nurses are employed by insurance companies as case managers and care reviewers. Many companies that market client care supplies and equipment seek nurses as sales representatives or as staff educators.

Although many nurses continue to be employed in acute care hospitals, an increasing number of nurses employed by hospitals are working in ambulatory care areas. Day surgery, day treatment, special teaching clinics, and other outpatient services are now commonly part of the acute care hospital. Some hospitals have had rehabilitation services for years, but now are moving into what is called "transitional care," that is, care during the convalescent or recovery period between acute care hospitalization and discharge home.

## CLASSIFICATION OF HEALTH CARE AGENCIES

Because the health care industry is so large, so diverse, and so complex, it is difficult to understand (Fig. 1-2). Generally, agencies providing care are classified in one of three ways: according to length of stay; according to type of service; or according to ownership (Display 1-1). You need to understand that any one of these classifications is somewhat arbitrary and





**FIGURE 1-2**

Clients often need assistance in finding their way through the modern health care system.

that any agency may be placed in more than one classification. With the systemic changes that are occurring, one agency may now include multiple lengths of stay, different types of service, and may combine many segments with different ownership patterns under one large entity. Nevertheless, these categories are useful because they are still used to describe institutions.

### Classification According to Length of Stay

One way of classifying agencies is according to length of stay. Short-stay, traditional acute care, and long-term care are terms that reflect the length of stay in a facility. Short-stay facilities provide services to patients who are suffering from acute conditions that usually require less than 24 hours of care. In some areas the average length of stay for a person having an appendectomy is now less than 24 hours. Short-stay may take place in separate units in a hospital or in free-standing, short-stay centers.