

**The American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation's (AHNCC)
Position on Advanced Practice Holistic Nursing**

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (HR3590), signed into law on March 23, 2010, moved the United States into a new paradigm for health and caring. The Institute of Medicine, recognizing Nursing's potential to serve as leaders in healthcare transformation (2010), recommended an expansion of the role of the Advanced Practice Nurse. Embracing these changes and recommendations, AHNCC has assumed our responsibility in the social transformation of healthcare. Specifically, we recognize that Holistic Nurses are uniquely prepared to take a leadership role in the promotion of health and wellness, prevent illness and complications with individuals, and advance the health and wellbeing of Society.

With this in mind, AHNCC developed and offers an *Advanced Practice Holistic Nursing Certification Program*.

Background

The practice of Holistic Nurses focuses on facilitating healing, health, and wellness in the *holistic person*, throughout the lifespan (AHNA 1998). Our clients are of all ages, in all settings; our population includes all persons who want or need to be facilitated with healing, health, or growth that results in mind-body-spirit synchrony and integration. We concentrate on interventions designed to protect, promote, and optimize health and wellness; alleviate suffering; prevent illness and/or injury; and facilitate people to find peace, comfort, and a sense of wellbeing from birth to death.

Holistic Nursing is a person-centered, growth and wellness-oriented practice model that *recognizes the significance of the relationship between provider and client*. Specifically, we believe that nursing of the person can only be accomplished through a partnership of provider and client with nurse as an instrument of health and healing, and clients as experts on their own life experience. The Holistic Nurse-Client relationship is designed with the intent of helping people experience quality and comfort in their lives and find meaning in their experiences, from birth through death.

As stated by AHNA

Holistic nurses honor the individual's subjective experience about health, health beliefs, and values. To become therapeutic partners with individuals, families, communities, and populations, holistic draws on nursing knowledge, theories, research, expertise, intuition, and creativity incorporating the roles of clinician, educator, consultant, coach, partner, role model, and advocate. Holistic nursing practice encourages peer

review of professional practice in various clinical settings and provides care based on current professional standards, laws, and regulations governing nursing practice.
(AHNA/ANA, 2013)

Position

As a national body of nurse leaders, the AHNCC Board of Directors believe that Holistic Nurses practice from a base of knowledge and skills that adds an important dimension to the practice of Professional Nursing-- *knowledge and skills essential for healthcare transformation*. Therefore, AHNCC resolves that:

1. Holistic Nursing is described as a *way-of-being with people rather than* what nurses do to, or for, their clients;
2. The population of Holistic Nursing consists of all persons who want or need to be facilitated with healing, health, or growth that results in mind-body-spirit synchrony and integration; and
3. Competencies of the Advanced Practice Holistic Nurse are necessary to implement the model-of-care implicit in healthcare transformation.

Action

In response to the social need for Advanced Practice Holistic Nurses, AHNCC has developed a certification program that builds on competencies required of the Advanced Holistic Nurse (AHN-BC) and includes *Advanced Practice Competencies* as indicated by our Standards of Holistic Nursing Practice (AHNA/ANA, 2013. *Holistic Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice*, 2nd Edition). Specifically, AHNCC now offers an *Advanced Practice Holistic Nurse Certification Program (APHN-BC, APRN)*.

AHNCC invites those interested in additional information to visit our website at www.ahncc.org.