

**Vanderbilt University Medical Center**  
Department of General Surgery  
Nurse Practitioner Scope of Practice

**Patient Population**

Adult patients who are followed by the Emergency General Surgery teams at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

**Site of Services:**

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

**Definition of Practice:**

The nurse practitioner (NP) under the direction/supervision/collaboration of the supervising physician (s), Chief Resident and General Surgery fellow has the following responsibilities:

- Assessment
  - Obtains/reviews a relevant health and medical history
  - Performs patient physical examination
  - Identifies medical and health risks and needs
  - Perform daily patient assessments
  - Perform patient assessments for episodic events
- Diagnosis
  - Independently formulates the appropriate differential diagnosis based on the history, physical examination and clinical findings for episodic events
  - Identifies the needs of the individual and/or family
- Development of Treatment Plan
  - Prioritizes patient needs to establish a mutually acceptable plan of medical care. This includes writing admission, post-op and transfer orders for diet, activity, wound care procedures, chest tube instructions, medications, IV fluids, oxygen and respiratory treatments.
  - Updates the treatment plan through daily participation in formal and informal rounds with CTS team
- Implementation of the Plan
  - Interventions are based on established priorities
  - Actions by the NP are:
    - Consistent with the plan of care
    - Based on scientific principles, theoretical knowledge, and clinical expertise
    - Individual to the situation
    - Consistent with teaching and learning opportunities

- Actions include:
  - Accurately ordering, conduction and interpreting diagnostic tests
  - Shares responsibility to communicate patient problems, status and prognosis with the patient family
  - Prescribing pharmacologic agents per approved formulary
  - Prescribing non-pharmacologic therapies
  - Performing procedures as delegated by the MD
  - Providing relevant education
  - Making appropriate referral to other services
  - Consultation with collaborating MD, Fellow or Resident will be initiated when critical changes occur in patient conditions
  
- Follow up and Evaluation
  - The NP maintains a process for systematic follow-up by determining the effectiveness of the plan of care through:
    - Documentation of patient outcomes in progress notes (i.e. episodic events)
    - Reassessment and modification of the plan as necessary to achieve medical goals
    - Monitors outcomes of implementation of the CTS team's plan
    - Follow up on consulting services recommendations
  
- Education
  - The NP provides educational opportunities for the patient and/or family related to health status
  - The NP provides educational opportunities for the nursing staff

Process of chart Review:

Supervising physician will review at least twenty percent (20%) of charts every thirty (30) days.

Protocol development/update/review:

Protocols will be jointly developed and approved in collaboration with the surprising physicians. These protocols will be reviewed and updated every two (2) years by the NP and supervising physician.

Reference material for protocol development:

AACN Procedure Manual for Critical Care  
 American Heart Association's Advanced Cardiac Life Support Manual  
 On Call Procedures

Availability of supervising physician:

The CTS supervising physician, fellow, or resident will be available for consultation at all times via pager.