Title: The Impact of Advance Practice Nursing in a Comprehensive Breast Center: Improving Throughput, Reducing Readmission Rates, and Increasing Satisfaction.

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Objective: Describe contributions made by advance practice nurses to the delivery of care in the Vanderbilt Breast Center.

Methods: The Vanderbilt Breast Center (VBC) is a comprehensive, full service, multidisciplinary outpatient facility that offers screening, imaging, biopsy, medical oncology, radiation oncology, plastic surgery consultation, nutrition, social work, infusion, wellness and survivorship care, clinical trials and genetic counseling all in one setting. This presentation describes the important contributions made by advance practice nurses in the successes of VBC in the areas of patient throughput, healthcare economics, patient and provider satisfaction, and nursing professional development.

Advance practice nurses (APNs) in the breast center have a variety of roles that encompass a wide spectrum of care. They practice in partnership and under the supervision of attending physicians in multiple disciplines. Practice protocols that are utilized, are structured in accordance with NCCN guidelines. The APNs work independently and in collaboration with healthcare team to provide expert care to patients and families. In the spirit of a Magnet® designation, APN’s partner with other staff to advance clinical practice through the introduction of current evidence, by elevating performance through oversight and mentorship, and by personalizing patient care. Nursing practice is based on the Vanderbilt Professional Practice Model, each member of the healthcare team is valued and critical to providing excellent patient care. Seven certified patient navigators (CBPN-IC) practice in imaging and the clinic setting closing gaps in patient care, facilitating smooth transitions between disciplines and services, and improving outcomes.

Results: The impact of this APN model is more effective care that eliminates redundant consultations, reduces costs and facilitates rapid access to care that includes onsite imaging and specialty consultation with a breast physician when indicated.

Conclusions: The APN model of care used in the VBC results in timely, efficient, and effective care delivery for both patients with breast concerns and breast cancer.