



What is a Faith Community Nurse?

Faith community nurses focus on the intentional care of the spirit as well as the promotion of whole-person health. They aim to prevent or minimize illness within the context of a faith community and the wider community.

The faith community nurse promotes mind, body and spirit health as an educator, health counselor, resource person, facilitator and integrator of health and healing. Those practicing this specialty are governed by the American Nurses Association's Scope and Standards of Practice for Registered Nurses (<https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/scope-of-practice/>), Scope and Standards of Practice for Faith Community Nurses (<https://hmassoc.org/resources/hma-publications/>), the Nurse Practice Act in the state the nurse practices, and the tasks in which the nurse owns competency.

Roles of the Faith Community Nurse

- Advocacy, education and referrals for clients
- Actions that are derived from nursing diagnosis and assessments according to the nursing Scope and Standards for Registered Nurses and the Scope and Standards for Faith Community Nurses
- Any medical care for which the nurse is licensed or has been declared competent to provide - if the medical care required is not a current skill of the nurse, then a referral to the appropriate caregiving service or emergency treatment is the only course of action
- Any care that is provided as a "good Samaritan" in an emergency situation when other caregivers are not available
- Actions and tasks that are **not** included:
Administration of treatments, medications, medical care that must be directed/supervised by a physician's order; routine medical care that is the responsibility of agencies under the client's physician's direction

(Source: <https://westberginstitute.org/faith-community-nursing/your-role/>)

How to become a Faith Community Nurse

Registered nurses or advanced practice registered nurses wishing to enter the specialty of faith community nursing should have the following:

- An active license in the state where the nurse's faith community is located
- Experience as a registered nurse
- Knowledge of health care and community resources
- Specialized knowledge of spiritual beliefs and practices
- Knowledge and skills to implement the Scope and Standards of Practice for Faith Community Nurses
- Educational preparation that focuses on the competencies described in the Scope and Standards of Practice for Faith Community Nurses

Email FHM@nortonhealthcare.org or call Norton Faith & Health Ministries at [\(502\) 629-2700](tel:5026292700) to find out how we may be able to assist you and your faith community.