Domain 7: Systems-Based Practice

Sub-competency	Progression Indicators (Observable Behaviors)	
	Developing	Developed (Competent)
7.1 Apply knowledge of systems to work effectively across the continuum of care.		
7.1a Describe organizational structure, mission, vision, philosophy, and values.	Explain the organizational structure and key leadership roles within a healthcare setting. Identify a healthcare organization's mission, vision, philosophy, and values.	Articulate the relationship between an organization's structure, mission, vision, philosophy, and values, emphasizing their influence on patient care and nursing practice. Explain how the organizational structure shapes clinical decision-making and interdisciplinary collaboration.
7.1b Explain the relationships of macrosystems, mesosystems, and microsystems.	Differentiate among macrosystems, mesosystems, and microsystems within healthcare organizations.	Analyze the interactions between these systems to explain their influence on patient care delivery and outcomes.
7.1c Differentiate between various healthcare delivery environments across the continuum of care.	Identify key characteristics of different healthcare environments across the continuum of care. Define the nurse's role in ensuring continuity of care during patient transitions.	Analyze how transitions between healthcare settings impact patient outcomes and nursing responsibilities.
7.1d Recognize internal and external system processes that impact care coordination and transition of care.	Identify internal processes and external factors influencing care coordination and patient transitions. Identify barriers to effective care transitions.	Evaluate the effectiveness of internal processes in facilitating care coordination and patient transitions. Propose strategies to address barriers to effective care transitions.
7.2 Incorporate consideration of cost-effectiveness of care.		
7.2a Describe the financial and payment models of health care.	Identify key financial concepts in healthcare. Describe basic insurance coverage principles and their role in patient access to care.	Explain how different payment models shape care delivery.

Domain 7: Systems-Based Practice

7.2b Recognize the impact of health disparities and social determinants of health on care outcomes.	Identify how social determinants of health contribute to disparities in patient outcomes. Describe the relationships between social and environmental factors and their influence on health status among populations. Articulate patients' unique circumstances, demonstrating sensitivity to how social determinants affect health and access to care.	Integrate knowledge of health disparities into patient assessments and care planning.
7.2c Describe the impact of healthcare cost and payment models on the delivery, access, and quality of care.	Describe basic payment models and their influence on healthcare access and quality. Identify how cost considerations affect care delivery and patient outcomes.	Analyze how payment models influence nursing practice, patient outcomes, and healthcare access.
7.2d Explain the relationship of policy, regulatory requirements, and economics on care outcomes.	Identify fundamental healthcare policies and regulations that influence nursing practice and patient care. Articulate how economic factors interact with policies to shape patient access and health outcomes. Describe examples of how regulatory requirements affect care delivery processes within clinical settings.	Describe the intersection of policy, regulation, and economics, evaluating their impact on resource allocation, patient care quality, safety, and outcomes.
7.2e Incorporate considerations of efficiency, value, and cost in providing care.	Describe the importance of efficiency, resource utilization, and value in patient care while identifying cost-saving strategies that maintain quality outcomes. Explore how evidence-based practices contribute to high-value care by optimizing resource use and improving efficiency.	Assess the impact of cost and efficiency in nursing care delivery and provide alternatives during care planning.

https://www.aacnnursing.org/essentials/tool-kit/domains-concepts/progression-indicators

Domain 7: Systems-Based Practice

7.2f Identify the impact of differing system structures, leadership, and workforce needs on care outcomes.	Identify workforce needs within clinical settings and their impact on care coordination and patient outcomes.	Analyze how leadership styles and team dynamics influence safe, effective care delivery. Explain how system-level structures affect the quality and consistency of patient care.
7.3 Optimize system effectiveness through application of innovation and evidence-based practice.		
7.3a Demonstrate a systematic approach for decision-making.	Collect appropriate patient-specific information from health information systems to inform clinical decision-making. Articulate pertinent patient information and align it with evidence-based practices to justify clinical decisions.	Apply patient-specific information from health information systems to guide clinical decision-making in practice. Utilize structured tools or frameworks to support clinical reasoning and ensure evidence-based practice.
7.3b Use reported performance metrics to compare/monitor outcomes.	Identify standard healthcare quality metrics. Demonstrate the ability to locate and interpret outcome data.	Evaluate the effectiveness of nursing care interventions using specific quality metrics. Incorporate quality metrics into plans of care to monitor trends and compare outcomes over time.
7.3c Participate in evaluating system effectiveness	Identify areas of system performance that impact patient care outcomes based on evidence-based practice guidelines. Propose preliminary ideas for addressing identified gaps using evidence-based practices.	Use evidence-informed practice guidelines to assess system-level impact on patient outcomes and care processes. Analyze and interpret system-level performance metrics at the unit level to assess effectiveness of evidence-based interventions.
7.3d Recognize internal and external system processes and structures that perpetuate racism and other forms of discrimination within health care.	Identify examples of structural or systemic racism and discrimination in healthcare settings. Reflect on and discuss personal experiences or observed practices in clinical settings that contribute to inequities in healthcare delivery.	Identify actionable, evidence-informed recommendations to address systemic inequities in healthcare.