sometimes called *patient-oriented* or total nursing care. The primary nurse will be assisted by associate nurses who provide care when the primary nurse is not scheduled on duty.

**Partners in practice:** Patient care is delivered with a combination of a nurse or primary care nurse working in partnership with a patient care assistant as a team. An assigned patient group is shared between these two partners who work closely to meet the care needs of their patients. In some settings, this model schedules both the nurse and NA to work the same schedule as much as possible to enable them to deliver care more effectively. Depending on the needs of the unit, other partner examples could include nurse and LPN or RN and respiratory therapist.

**Patient-Focused Care**

Along with the nursing models just described, one increasing trend in health care is to use a *patient-focused care* delivery model. This model may involve a small team of cross-trained caregivers assigned to deliver patient care in a specific unit or area. In this case, the members are cross-trained to draw blood samples, run EKG strips, and provide other skilled care as needed. The patient receives more personalized care because there are fewer personnel in direct contact with each patient.

Figure 1–4 shows a patient-focused care delivery model involving a multidisciplinary team used in a health care facility. The team plans, makes decisions, and delivers care with the patient as the central point of focus, rather than the needs of various departments or caregivers. This design intends to provide seamless care across the continuum or episode of health care. The managers are more like coaches in this model, and the health care team workers are all working toward the common goal of delivering personalized, cost-effective care focused or centered on patient needs. A multidisciplinary team involves as many or as few departments (members) as the patient’s needs require.

---

**FIGURE 1–4**

A multidisciplinary team provides patient-focused/patient-centered care; when possible the team includes the patient and the patient’s family.
nursing assistant A person who helps the registered nurse to care for patients; nursing assistants work in hospitals, long-term care or other health care facilities, or in the patient’s home

team leader The nurse responsible for one area of a nursing unit, including patient care assignments

task oriented Nursing care that is arranged according to what must be done

primary nursing A patient-oriented method of organizing the health care team in which the professional registered nurses are responsible for the total nursing care of the patient

nurse A person educated and trained to provide health care for people and to help physicians and surgeons; nurses are licensed as registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs)

patient-focused care A care delivery model in which multidisciplinary teams plan, make decisions, and deliver care with the patient’s needs being the focus rather than the needs or convenience of various departments or caregivers

multidisciplinary team A team of professionals and nonprofessionals from different disciplines that plans, makes decisions, and implements the delivery of patient care that is focused, or centered, on the patient’s needs rather than any particular discipline’s (department’s) needs

Patient-Focused Care

Along with the nursing models just described, one increasing trend in health care is to use a patient-focused care delivery model. This model may involve a small team of cross-trained caregivers assigned to deliver patient care in a specific unit or area. In this case, the members are cross-trained to draw blood samples, run EKG strips, and provide other skilled care as needed. The patient receives more personalized care because there are fewer personnel in direct contact with each patient.

Figure 1–4◆ represents a patient-focused care delivery model involving a multidisciplinary team used in a health care facility. The team plans, makes decisions, and delivers care with the patient as the central point of focus, rather than the needs of various departments and services. This design intends to provide seamless care across the continuum or episode of health care. The managers are more like coaches in this model, and the health care team workers are all working toward the common goal of delivering personalized, cost-effective care focused or centered on patient needs. A multidisciplinary team involves as many or as few departments (members) as the patient’s needs require.

![Multidisciplinary Team Diagram](image-url)