Hi. I am Chandice Covington, Dean of Nursing, at Kaplan University. Today, I am talking with one of our faculty members, Dr. Amy Daly. We're going to discuss topics that are particularly relevant to current and future nurses including is the emerging trends in nursing the expanding role of technology, and the wide range of opportunities that exist. You'll also hear valuable advice from our panel of nursing experts. Amy, I'm so excited to be able to talk to you today. You and I have worked together, and I really value your opinion.

S2 00:44 Thank you.

S1 00:45 I would like to ask you a first question. That question is, how do you feel that nursing, and the profession of nursing, has evolved and changed over the last five years?

S2 00:57 Chandice, nursing has changed dramatically in the last five years. In 2010, the Institute of Medicine created a report titled The Future of Nursing, and this really changed the path of how nursing will be. And it actually affected nursing now and in the future. Some of the things that are changed are really things like payment for services that are valued-based versus volume-based. The Affordable Care Act also has an impact on nursing because so many more people have access to healthcare, and so there will be more providers who are needed, and most of those will be nurses, and nurse practitioners, especially.

S1 01:42 Wow. Oh, the future of nursing. Regarding that, Amy, how do you see that education and training of nurses will be influenced by the effects of the Institute of Medicine report?

S2 01:56 Actually, there needs to be more nursing programs established, and there needs to be training so that nurses can take care of patients with increasingly complexed health problems. It's a very different way of looking at the patient, looking at the patient very holistically, taking into consideration many aspects of their life, and also having an emphasis on prevention and risk identification. I think that's an important part of how we will be working.

S1 02:34 Amy, tell me more about how you envision that technology will influence what nurses are involved with with patients, and how that will impact their practice.

S2 02:51 I think technology will be very prevalent in the future, even more so than it is now. Take, for example, telemedicine, telehealth. Patients with chronic illnesses can actually monitor their health on a daily, on a weekly basis, submit it to their healthcare provider or to their home health nurse, and so it eliminates frequent readmissions to the hospital. It helps the patient be involved in their own care. And then it helps the healthcare provider know that the treatment plan is working, or is it not working and we have to reevaluate it. So that's one important area that technology will be a part of healthcare. In addition, in rural areas sometimes we have telemedicine, telenursing, so there is a nurse who is on a screen communicating to a
patient at a distance. But they’re still providing information and assistance with their care.

S1 03:56 Yes, patients in rural areas can really be helped with that outreach. Are there any other personal health technology that patients can use? Will they know how to use that technology?

S2 04:08 That’s a good point because, actually, patients will have to be taught how to use technology. Many people are not technology-savvy, and so that is part of the patient education that will take place so that the nurses can help the patients be comfortable with equipment, with data points, and different aspects of their care that involve technology.

S1 04:35 Thank you. I want to move on to another topic with Dr. Daly, and that is how can nurses prepare to partner with physicians and other healthcare professionals on the team to redesign healthcare?

S2 04:51 Interprofessional collaboration is a main focus of many nursing education programs and practice situations. No longer is it just the physician who is taking care of the patient. There is an interdisciplinary team in the facility, or even in the outpatient setting, where you have OT, physical therapy, maybe a dietician, a pharmacist, who all meet together to plan the patient’s care with that patient so the patient is involved. I think to make sure that nurses can partner with these different disciplines the scope of practice needs to broadened. Right now there are some restrictions, such as nurse practitioners do not have autonomy to practice independently in all states in the country, but many of them are moving in that direction. I think our education and training is very important to include the importance in how much this can be a driver of healthcare, to make sure that physicians recognize nurses for what they can contribute, and that nurses can lead change.

S1 06:03 I think it’s really important that you mentioned that the inter-professional notion is such a driver today of redesign. Moving on then, how is the nursing profession expanding opportunities for nurses to lead and initiate collaborative improvement efforts that allow them both to conduct research, redesign, and improve practice environments and health systems?

S2 06:32 I think this is taking place through our education programs, and I especially think about the advanced practice nurse and then also the doctoral-prepared nurses. In our Doctor of Nursing Practice programs, the emphasis is on using evidence to translate into practice, so that everything that is done in practice has some evidence to support it. The DNP-prepared nurse especially does not necessarily generate new research - they can, but it’s just not the focus - but they use existing research to make changes. The DNP-prepared nurse is a change agent, a catalyst for change. So I think in our nursing education programs, this is where we need to focus. In the Ph.D. programs for nursing, those are more research focused, and many times that is new research, which is excellent, because, again, that’s what then later the DNP nurse will use in practice. I think we have a combination of making sure our education programs focus on this and prepare the nurses to be a part of this collaborative effort.

S1 07:45 Oh, it’s so much to think about, the future of nursing. I thank you very much today for your time.

S2 07:53 You’re welcome.

S1 07:53 Dr. Daly, this has been very informative. Have a wonderful day.

S2 07:57 Thank you.