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The Nocturnal, Cardiovascular Nurse Practitioner: Roles, Responsibilities, and Challenges**Sharon Schaaf RN, FNP, AGACNP, DNP**

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The number of Acute Care nurse practitioners (ACNP) in the United States is increasing and approximately 20% have a clinical focus area of cardiology. The role and responsibilities of the ACNP in this arena differs with the various cardiovascular subspecialties. The cardiovascular ACNP providing nocturnal coverage has its own unique set of responsibilities that encompasses each subspecialty. The aim of this discussion is to address the role, responsibilities, and challenges of a private-practice, nocturnal cardiovascular nurse practitioner working in a frontier-designated state in the United States.

Biography

Sharon Schaaf has board certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) as well as an Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP) and earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) from Texas Woman's University. She has been working as a cardiovascular nurse practitioner for 14 years, both inpatient and outpatient, the last 5 years has been providing nocturnal coverage for a premier cardiology practice in Albuquerque, NM. She is also the Concentration Coordinator for the UNM College of Nursing Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program.

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