This in-depth new edition of an enduring ANA classic defines nursing's value and accountability to society.

The book's singular contribution is its description of the nursing profession and its essential elements:
  * Social context and contract
  * Nursing's knowledge base
  * Definition of nursing
  * Scope and standards of practice
  * Authority for practice
  * Regulation of practice

These elements have been revised in recognition of the ongoing advances in nursing practice and knowledge, delineating and reaffirming the deep societal commitments of the profession.