
FIRST NATIONS AND INUIT HEALTH BRANCH

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSES

NURSING STATION FACILITY/HEALTH CENTER TREATMENT
FACILITY

Date: _____

Name of Nurse: _____

I have read and understand the Community Health Nurses Scope of Practice and agree to practice within this scope to the best of my knowledge, skill and judgment.

Signature: _____

First Nation and Inuit Health Branch
Nursing Division
Health Canada
Fall 1994

INTRODUCTION

The revised Scope of Practice document is intended for use by First Nations and Inuit Health Branch nurses working in a nursing station facility or health centre treatment facility.

The Scope of Practice document establishes the basic parameters for nursing practice. The actual scope is individually influenced by the setting in which the nurse works, the requirements of the employer and the needs of the clients. It is understood that the range of health care services may vary from one community to the other and from one region to the other.

It is envisioned that continual adjustments will be necessary to define the scope of nursing practice in a way that recognizes and responds to the trends and pressures of the health care system.

First Nations and Inuit Health Branch

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

**COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSES
NURSING STATION FACILITY/HEALTH CENTER TREATMENT FACILITY**

The Scope of Practice establishes the basic parameters for the practice of Community Health Nursing in First Nations and Inuit Health Branch Nursing Station/Treatment Facility to provide primary health care services.

Community Health Nurses are personally and professionally responsible for familiarizing themselves with the Scope of Nursing Practice as established in this document.

Limitations to the Scope of Practice may be established by specific Regional Policies and must be discussed during orientation.

It is the personal and legal responsibility of nurses to refuse to perform any functions for which they do not feel competent. Steps must be taken by the nurse to inform the employer.

Performing nursing practices that are not included in the Scope of Practice may entitle the employer to refuse liability for the nurse's action. The nurse may also be subjected to investigation and action by the Provincial Regulatory Body.

In accordance with the Scope of Practice, programs are designed to provide nurses with the preparation to enable them to practice in the extended role function.

First Nations and Inuit Health Branch sponsored programs are:

- Northern Clinical Practice Program
- Northern Community Health Nursing in First Nations
- Regional Certification Programs
- Regional Orientation Program

INTRODUCTION

Working with an interdisciplinary team in a cross-cultural environment, the nurse uses the primary health care model, the nursing process and transcultural nursing concepts to provide services to the client. The client refers to an individual, family, group or community.

- A.** In carrying out nursing duties in a Nursing Station/Treatment Facility, the nurse must have knowledge, skills and professional judgement as it relates to health education, health promotion, prevention, treatment and rehabilitative services. The nurse must consult/refer, as appropriate.

These duties are to:

- 1.** Access health status, needs and coping abilities of clients, taking into account:
 - a) biological, psychological, social, political, spiritual and economic factors
 - b) health behaviour as influenced by cultural and value systems
- 2.** Analyze the information, in consultation with the client, to determine the actual or potential health problem by:
 - a) using health statistics and health needs assessments to measure the level of health
 - b) identifying client priorities, objectives, health problems and needs
- 3.** Establish a health care plan by:
 - a) identifying appropriate and effective measures to meet defined needs and problems
 - b) identifying activities and interventions to be undertaken
 - c) identifying community resources and services
 - d) identifying key indicators to use for an evaluative tool

4. Implement a health care plan by:
 - a) facilitating health-related services
 - b) providing health education, health promotion and prevention services
 - c) providing treatment services and care in emergency situations
 - d) treating acutely and chronically ill clients, in consultation with the physician, as required
 - e) treating, preventing and controlling infectious diseases

 5. Evaluate interventions by:
 - a) identifying indicators of improved health status
 - b) identifying changing health conditions
 - c) reformulating health care plans based on evaluative outcomes from intervention
 - d) utilizing knowledge gained from the client care in the planning of future interventions for the benefit of the population served

 6. Record and report information obtained.
- B.** In carrying out nursing duties in a Nursing Station/Treatment Facility, the nurse must have knowledge, skills and professional judgement as it relates to the concepts of health education, health promotion, prevention, group process and community development to provide and/or coordinate care, with appropriate referral, for the following community health program areas:
- a) communicable disease control
 - b) maternal/child health
 - c) reproductive health
 - d) pre-school health
 - e) school health
 - f) adult health, including family health
 - g) chronic health problems
 - h) geriatric health
 - i) family violence, physical/sexual assault and other crisis situations
 - j) substance abuse
 - k) mental health, including suicide prevention, crises intervention, bereavement counseling, stress management
 - l) injury prevention

- m) preventive dental health
 - n) nutrition, including weight control
 - o) healthy lifestyles
 - p) environmental health – initial contact, referral/liaison
 - q) participation in disaster planning/management initial contact, referral/liaison
 - r) participation in occupational health – prevention, promotion, education, treatment and appropriate referral
 - s) home nursing – acts as a resource to educate the family and caregivers in the provision of home nursing care and provides initial home nursing services
- C.** In carrying out nursing duties in a Nursing Station/Treatment Facility, and based on an understanding of physical and emotional care, the nurse must have knowledge, skills and professional judgement in recognition and management of the following:
1. Common medical problems, conditions, disorders affecting adults and initial management of clients with more serious illness until transfer to physician/hospital, and follow up management upon return to the community
 2. Common medical problems, conditions, disorders affecting pediatric clients based on an understanding of normal growth and development/child care and initial management of clients with more serious pediatric illness until transfer to physician/hospital, and follow up management upon return to the community
 3. Common medical problems, conditions, disorders affecting the low/high risk, obstetrical client throughout the maternity cycle, with referral to hospital and/or physician, as appropriate, and initial management of emergency obstetrical conditions until transfer to physician/hospital and follow up management upon return to the community
 4. Acute emergency care and services and initial management

Scope of Practice – Community Health Nurses

5. Mental health problems, conditions, disorders requiring consultation, crisis intervention and initial management of clients with serious problems until transfer to physician/hospital and follow up management upon return to community
 6. Preparing clients for and managing a client during any evacuation requiring medical or nursing escort
- D.** In carrying out nursing duties in a Nursing Station/Treatment Facility relating to the common acute, chronic and emergency conditions, referred to in C-1 to 5, the nurse would be expected to recognize and be able to make a decision about, but not be restricted to, the conditions which follow. The nurse will consult, as required, regarding the necessary care and referral and will provide appropriate health education.

The conditions are:

1. inflammation and infections
2. allergies and allergic reactions/anaphylaxis
3. ophthalmological conditions
4. otorhinopharyngeal conditions
5. dental problems
6. nutritional problems
7. dehydration
8. gastrointestinal disorders
9. acute abdomen
10. respiratory conditions
11. cardiovascular conditions
12. hemorrhage
13. laceration and wounds
14. musculoskeletal conditions including fractures, joint and connective tissue injuries
15. thermal injuries
16. trauma assessment and management
17. obstetrical emergencies, including emergency deliveries
18. gynecological and urological conditions
19. communicable diseases
20. sexually transmitted diseases
21. neurological conditions
22. seizure disorders, including febrile convulsions

23. mental health problems/disorders
24. suicide attempts
25. substance abuse-primary role, prevention, initial contact, referral/liaison
26. poisonings/overdoses
27. endocrine problems
28. skin conditions

E. In dealing with common health problems or in an emergency situation in a Nursing Station/Treatment Facility, the nurse must have knowledge, skills and professional judgment to carry out the following functions:

- 1.** History taking, determination of mental health status and physical assessment of all age groups taking into consideration normal parameters of growth and development, risk factors, and the coping abilities of individuals in order to establish a working diagnosis.

The physical examination covers the following systems:

- a) skin
- b) head and neck, including eyes, ears, nose and throat
- c) respiratory
- d) cardiovascular
- e) peripheral vascular
- f) upper and lower gastrointestinal
- g) musculoskeletal
- h) neurological
- i) reproductive
- j) genitourinary
- k) endocrine

- 2.** Managing common health problems by initiating the following measures:

- a) nursing intervention
- b) counselling techniques
- c) consultation, referral and follow-up
- d) medical intervention according to predetermined protocols
- e) drug therapy according to the national Nurse's Drug Classification System, and other predetermined protocols and/or consultation
- f) minor surgical procedures such as superficial suturing, drainage of abscess, removal of non-penetrating foreign bodies

3. Undertaking/monitoring specific procedures/techniques including:
- a) vision screening
 - b) audiometric screening
 - c) dental screening
 - d) developmental screening
 - e) chronic disease screening and referral
 - f) communicable disease, screening, contact tracing and follow-up
 - g) hemoprophylaxis for certain communicable disease, using predetermined protocols, e.g. TB
 - h) HIV testing and counseling
 - i) management of STD's
 - j) physical/sexual assault protocols
 - k) immunization, including proper storage and transportation of vaccines
 - l) management of anaphylaxis
 - m) administration/monitoring and dispensing of medication, including IV push, according to the national Nurse's Drug Classification System, and other predetermined protocols and/or consultation
 - n) IV therapy according to predetermined protocols and/or consultation
 - o) intermittent infusion plugs
 - p) venipuncture
 - q) intraosseous infusion
 - r) teaching breast and testicular examination
 - s) teaching breast feeding techniques, including expression of breast milk
 - t) breathing exercises and chest physio
 - u) active and passive range of motion exercises
 - v) care of and removal, by string only, of I.U.D.
 - w) eye examination, including irrigation and fluorescein staining
 - x) removal of non penetrating foreign bodies
 - y) wound management/suturing
 - z) splinting and immobilization, including collars and backboards
 - aa) back slab application and cast removal
 - bb) emergency first aid/control of haemorrhage
 - cc) X-ray (basic chest and limbs) and initial interpretation
 - dd) ECG with basic interpretation
 - ee) oxygen and aerosol therapy
 - ff) insertion of nasogastric tube and gastric lavage
 - gg) monitoring home dialysis

- hh) Basic Life Support (BLS) including resuscitation with Ambu Bag or pocket mask, insertion of oropharyngeal airway and drugs following consultation
- ii) chest decompression after medical consultation
- jj) management and transportation of biomedical waste and dangerous goods

4. Use of specific equipment:

- a) otoscope
- b) ophthalmoscope
- c) eye charts
- d) stethoscope
- e) sphygmomanometer
- f) fetoscope, including doptone
- g) audiometer/tuning fork
- h) mini-labs (may include, but not limited to, glucometer, hemoglobinometer)
- i) specimen incubator
- j) centrifuge
- k) oxygen tanks, concentrators, nebulizers, regulators, pulse oxymeters
- l) mist tents
- m) resuscitation masks, Ambu-Bag
- n) oro/naso pharyngeal airways
- o) infant incubators
- p) suction equipment
- q) infusion pump
- r) gastric tubes
- s) ECG machine
- t) transportable X-ray machine
- u) microscope
- v) speculum (nasal and vaginal)
- w) cast cutter
- x) ambulatory aids
- y) sterilizer/autoclave
- z) tonometer

5. Laboratory tests including obtaining a specimen, doing the test and/or sending it to the laboratory:

- a) HgB
- b) WBC
- c) sed rate

- d) blood glucose
- e) cholesterol screening
- f) preparation of cultures and swabs
- g) pregnancy test
- h) urinalysis, microscopy and uric acid
- i) P.K.U.
- j) Pap smear
- k) Chlamydia
- l) GC
- m) blood smears
- n) microscopy of vaginal and urethral smears, wet mounts
- o) sputum for C&S, AFB, cytology
- p) stool for occult blood, ova or parasites and C&S
- q) gastric washing
- r) HIV testing including counselling

STANDING OFFER

Appendix "B"

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

I, the undersigned, agree that I will keep confidential all information relating to the affairs of the Minister, and any and all patient information to which I become privy, in relation to the provision of the Nursing Services at Health Facilities in the Province of Ontario, FNIHB of Health Canada, under with:

Canadian Health Care Agency Ltd., Cambridge, ON

Company Name

Dated: _____

At: Cambridge, Ontario

Employee:

Print Name

Signature

Witness:

Print name

Signature