

Section 3: Definitions and Abbreviations

Reference Sheet 03-001-00.....Definition of Terms

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Reference Sheet 03-003-00.....Common Abbreviations



DEFINITION OF TERMS 03-001-00

Accountability: Quality of being answerable and liable for one's own judgements and actions.

Additional Nursing Function: Are nursing functions for which basic nursing programs provide neither specific theory nor clinical practice.

Agency: Any recognized organization, institution, or business which employs a registered nurse for the purpose of implementing health programs and delivering health services.

Authorization: Process by which registered nurses are given approval by the Department of Health and Social Services to carry out nursing or delegated medical functions based upon written policies and adherence to nursing specific guidelines.

Basic Nursing Functions: Can be divided into two categories:

“A” Level Basic Nursing Function: Nursing functions for which a nurse has gained both a theoretical understanding and skills competence.

“B” Level Basic Nursing Function: Nursing functions for which a nurse has received specific theoretical instruction, but not necessarily developed skills competence.

Basic Nursing Programs: Any nursing program which leads to either a diploma or a baccalaureate degree in nursing that qualifies a nurse for registration.

Certification: Is the issuance of a certificate on the successful completion of a formalized program of instruction and supervised practice as one means of developing specialized competence.

Client: “Recipient of service may be the individual, family, group, aggregate or community of concern to the Government of Nunavut or registered nurse” (Registered Nurses Association of Ontario: Standards of Nursing Practice for Community Health Nurses in Ontario, May 1985).

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI): A management approach to improving and maintaining quality that emphasizes internally driven and relatively continuous assessments of potential causes of quality defects, followed by action aimed either at avoiding decrease in quality or else correcting it an early stage.

Delegated Medical Functions: Those functions within the practice of medicine that physicians are permitted to delegate to nurses with specialized competence.

Home and Community Care Nurse: A registered nurse who provides nursing and medical services where the client lives - often in one's own home, a family member's home or in an assisted-living community.

Guideline: A summary of information provided as a reference or resource to Health Agencies and registered nurses.

Inservice Education: A method of instruction/training provided to employees for professional development, dissemination of information, and for development of specialized competence.

Job Description: A written statement listing the qualifications and major responsibilities of an individual who holds a specific position.



Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN): Are regulated health care professionals who work under a narrower nursing scope of practice than the registered nurse.

Medical Functions: Any activity based upon sound medical knowledge and implemented with skill and judgement in the course of medical practice.

Nunavut Formulary for Community Health Centres: A formula guideline developed and maintained by the Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee. Specific criteria regarding drug formularies are located in Drug Prescription Policy.

Nurse Practitioner: An advanced practice registered nurse who is prepared through a formal nursing educational program to provide a full range of primary health care services. The nurse practitioner, utilizing a broad knowledge base, focuses on health promotion, prevention of disease/health problems, early diagnosis and treatment of common acute minor illnesses and injuries, and management of stabilized chronic illnesses.

Nursing Function: Any activity based upon sound nursing knowledge and implemented with skill and judgement in the course of nursing practice.

Nursing Leadership Advisory Committee: A committee comprised of representatives from various nursing disciplines who provide strategic leadership to support professional nursing practice within Nunavut. The NLAC provides a responsive venue for members of the Nunavut nursing community to discuss, come to consensus on, make decisions and take actions on issues related to practice, education, leadership, communication, patient safety and recruitment and retention.

Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee: A committee comprised of representatives from pharmacy, medicine, nursing, and administration who have specific responsibilities under Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee Policy.

Physician: is a registered medical practitioner as defined in the Medical Profession Act (S.Nu. 2001, c.10, s.5).

Policy: A written statement that clearly describes the responsibility and actions to be taken in a given set of circumstances. A policy provides direction for decision making.

Protocol: Written statement of the approach to management and treatment for any given condition.

Procedure: Step by step instructions for the implementation of nursing and medical functions.

Public Health Nurse: Public health nursing is a specialized form of registered nursing that combines nursing and public health principles. The primary focus of public health nursing is improving the health of the community as a whole rather than just that of an individual or family.

Registered Nurse: “A graduate of a recognized approved nursing program who has successfully completed the qualifying examinations, has met the requirements for registration and is registered in accordance with the Nursing Profession Act” (S.Nu. 2003, c. 17).

Registered Psychiatric Nurse: is the speciality of nursing that cares for people of all ages with mental illness and promotes mental wellness. Nurses in this area receive additional training in psychological



therapies, building a therapeutic alliance, dealing with challenging behaviour, and the administration of psychiatric medication.

Responsibility: The quality of being answerable for implementing nursing and sanctioned medical functions which involve obligations or duties as a registered nurse.

Sanctioned Medical Functions: Delegated medical functions that can be safely implemented by nurses with specialized competence who are authorized to do so by their employing agency.

- i. Sanctioned Independent Medical Functions: are delegated medical functions which may be implemented by a nurse with specialized competence without consulting a physician.
- ii. Sanctioned Dependent Medical Functions: are delegated medical functions which may be implemented by a nurse with specialized competence after consultation with a physician.

Specialized Competence: A quality of having completed a post basic nursing education program of instruction and supervised practice in a specific function or field of practice which has been developed in response to an identified need and within a framework which allows for safe implementation and competent practice.

Standard: “a generally accepted written expectation amenable to measurement through the development of specific behaviours (criteria) against which the actual performance can be judged” (Registered Nurses Association of Nova Scotia: Standards for Nursing Practice, 1985).



COMMON GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT ACRONYMS 03-002-00

ACLS	=	Advanced Cardiac Life Support
ADI	=	Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative
ATIPP	=	Access to Information Privacy and Protection
ATV	=	All Terrain Vehicle
BCG	=	Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) Vaccine
BFI	=	Baby Friendly Initiative
CHC	=	Community Health Center (formerly Nursing Station)
CHN	=	Community Health Nurse
CHR	=	Community Health Representative
CLEY	=	Culture, Language, Elders, Youth
CMOH	=	Chief Medical Officer of Health
CNA	=	Canadian Nurses Association
CNO	=	Chief Nursing Officer
CNPS	=	Canadian Nurses Protective Society
COPD	=	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
CPNP	=	Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program
CPG	=	Clinical Practice Guidelines
CPS	=	Canadian Pediatric Society
CQI	=	Continuous Quality Improvement
EAP	=	Employee Assistance Program
EHO	=	Environmental Health Officer
ETA	=	Expected time of arrival
FNIHB	=	First Nations and Inuit Health Branch
GN	=	Government of Nunavut
HCN	=	Home Care Nurse



HCC	=	Home Care Coordinator
HCW	=	Home Care Worker
HCP	=	Home Care Program or Health Care Professional
HPV	=	Human Papilloma Virus
HR	=	Human Resources
HSS	=	Health and Social Services
HTLV	=	Human T-cell Lymphotropic Virus
IQ	=	Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit
IEP	=	Inuit Employment Priority, Priority Hiring
ITK	=	Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami
KIA	=	Kivalliq Inuit Association or Kitikmeot Inuit Association
KSA	=	Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (Learning needs assessment)
Medivac		Medical Evacuation
MSDS	=	Material and Safety Data Sheets
NADA	=	National Aboriginal Diabetes Association
NEU	=	Nunavut Employers Union
NIC	=	Nurse in Charge (now the SHP)
NIHB	=	Non-Insured Health Benefits
NLAC	=	Nursing Leadership Advisory Committee
NRP	=	Neonatal Resuscitation Program
NTI	=	Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporation
NU	=	Nunavut
NU P&T	=	Nunavut Pharmacy and Therapeutics
NGO	=	Non-Governmental organization
NWT	=	Northwest Territories
NT	=	Northwest Territories (used for mailing things)
OHSNI	=	Ontario Health Science Network Incorporation



PALS	=	Pediatric Advanced Life Support
PHAC	=	Public Health Agency of Canada
PHC	=	Primary Health Care
PDI	=	Professional Development Initiative (for GN indeterminate nurses)
PDP	=	Professional Development Plan
QGH	=	Qikiqtani General Hospital (formerly BRH Baffin Regional Hospital)
QIA	=	Qikiqtani Inuit Association
RCMP	=	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
RNANT/NU	=	Registered Nurses Association of NT and NU
R.S.C.	=	Revised Statutes of Canada (Canadian Legislation)
RSV	=	Respiratory Syncytial Virus
Sched	=	Scheduled plane
S.Nu	=	Statutes of Nunavut (Nunavut Legislation)
SOAP	=	Subjective, Objective, Assessment and Plan- CHN Charting
SOGC	=	Society of Gynecology and Obstetrics in Canada
SHP	=	Supervisor of Health Programs (formerly NIC)
STI	=	Sexually Transmitted Infections (formerly STD)
TB	=	Tuberculosis
TDG	=	Transportation and Dangerous Goods
UTPOP	=	University Toronto Psychiatric Outreach Program
WSCC	=	Worker's Safety and Compensation Commission (formerly WCB)
WHMIS	=	Workplace Hazard Material Information System



COMMON ABBREVIATIONS 03-003-00

AA	Alcoholics Anonymous	CA	cancer, carcinoma
AAA	Abdominal aortic aneurysm	CABG	coronary artery bypass graft
abd	abdomen	CAD	coronary artery disease
ABG	Arterial Blood Gas	CAGE	alcohol screening test (Cut down, annoy, guilt, eyeopener)
ac	Before Meals	cal	calorie
ACE-I	Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor	CT	computerized tomography
ACL	Anterior cruciate ligament	CBC	complete blood count
ACLS	Advanced cardiac life support	CBT	cognitive behavior therapy
ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder	CDC	Centers for Disease Control
ADHD	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	CHF	congestive heart failure
ADL	Activities of daily living	Cl	chloride
Afib	Atrial fibrillation	CK	creatine kinase
AFO	Ankle foot orthosis	cm	centimeter
AIDS	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome	CMOH	Chief Medical Officer of Health
Alb	Albumin	CNO	Chief Nursing Officer
Alk Phos	Alkaline phosphatase	c/o	complaining of
ALT	Alanine aminotransferase	CMV	cytomegalovirus
A.M.	morning	CN	cranial nerve
A.M.A.	Against medical advice	CNS	central nervous system
ANA	antinuclear antibodies	CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
Amp	Ampoule	COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
ASA	aspirin	C-PAP	continuous positive airway pressure
ASAP	as soon as possible	CPK	creatine phosphokinase
AST	aspartate aminotransferase	CPR	cardiopulmonary resuscitation
AWOL	absent without leave	CRP	c-reactive protein
BBB	bundle branch block	Cr	creatinine
B-blocker	beta-blocker	CR	Controlled Release
BID	bid twice daily	cr	Cream
BM	bowel movement	CSF	cerebrospinal fluid
BMI	body mass index	C-spine	Cervical spine
BP	blood pressure	CV	cardiovascular
BPH	benign prostatic hypertrophy	CVA	cerebrovascular accident
BR	bathroom	CXR	chest x-ray
BUN	blood urea nitrogen	D&C	dilation and curettage
BX	biopsy	D/C; dc; d/c	discontinue
C	centigrade	DDAVP	desmopressin
C+S	culture + sensitivity	DM	diabetes mellitus
Cap	Capsule	DNR	Do Not Resuscitate
CC	chief complaint	DOB	date of birth
Ca	calcium	drsg	dressing
		ds, DS	double strength



DSM	diagnostic & statistical manual of mental disorders	Hgb	hemoglobin
DT	diphtheria, tetanus toxoid	HbA1C	Hemoglobin A1C
DVT	deep vein thrombosis	HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
Dx	diagnosis	HOB	head of bed
EA	Each	H/O	History of
EC	Enteric Coated	HPI	history of present illness
EEG	electroencephalogram	HPV	human papillomavirus
EENT	eye-ear-nose-throat	HRT	hormone replacement therapy
e.g.	for example	H2O	water
EKG, ECG	electrocardiogram	H & P	history & physical
EMG	electromyography	hr	hour
ENT	ear, nose, throat	H.S.	hour of sleep; at bedtime
ERCP	endoscopic retro cholangiopancreatogram	ht.	height
ER	emergency room	HTN	hypertension
EPS	extra pyramidal symptoms	HV	home visit
ES	extra strength	Hx	history
ESR	erythrocyte sedimentation rate	I&D	incision and drainage
ETOH	alcohol	IBS	irritable bowel syndrome
F	Fahrenheit	i.e.	that is
FBS	fasting blood sugar	Inh	Inhalation
FDA	Food & Drug Administration	Inj	Injectable
Fe	iron	IM	intramuscular
FHx	family history	Info	information
FSH	follicle stimulating hormone	INH	isoniazid
ft.	feet	INR	international normalized ratio
f/u	follow-up	IOP	intraocular pressure
GC	gonococcus, gonorrhoea	I & O	input & output
GERD	Gastroesophageal reflux disease	irreg.	irregular
GGT	gamma glutamyl transferase	IU	International Units
G.I.	gastrointestinal	IUD	intrauterine device
GSW	gunshot wound	IV	intravenous
gtt	drop	IVP	intravenous pyelogram
G.U.	Genito-urinary	JVD	Jugular venous distention
g	Gram	JVP	Jugular venous pulse/pulsation
HA	Headache	KCL	Potassium Chloride
HbcAB	Hepatitis B core antibody	K	potassium
HBsAb	Hepatitis B surface antibody	Kg	kilogram
HBsAg	Hepatitis B surface antigen	KUB	kidney, ureter, bladder
Hct	hematocrit	L	liter
HCTZ	hydrochlorothiazide	LBBB	left bundle branch block
HDL	high density lipoprotein	lab	laboratory
HEENT	head, eyes, ears, nose & throat	lb.	pound
Hep A, B, C	Hepatitis A, B, C	LDH	lactate dehydrogenase



LDL	low density lipoprotein	NaCl	Sodium Chloride
LFT	liver function test	N/A	not applicable
LLL	left lower lobe	Na	sodium
LLQ	left lower quadrant	NAD	no acute distress
LML	left middle lobe	NAHCO ₃	Sodium Bicarbonate
LMP	last menstrual period	NAS	no added salt
LP	lumbar puncture	neb	nebules
L-spine	lumbar spine	neg	negative
LS-spine	lumbosacral spine	neuro	neurological
LUL	left upper lobe	NG	nasogastric
LUQ	left upper quadrant	NGT	nasogastric tube
LV	left ventricle	NKA	no known allergies
LVH	left ventricular hypertrophy	NKDA	no known drug allergies
lytes	electrolytes	NKFA	no known food allergies
Liq	Liquid	NPO	nothing by mouth
LPN	Licensed Practical Nurse	NP	Nurse Practitioner
m	meter	NS	Normal Saline
MAOI	monoamine-oxidase inhibitor	NSAIDS	non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
max	maximum	NSR	normal sinus rhythm
mcg	microgram	NWB	non-weight bearing
MCH	mean corpuscular hemoglobin	N/V	nausea & vomiting
MCHC	mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration	O	objective(s)
MCP	metacarpal phalangeal joint	O ₂	oxygen
MCV	mean corpuscular volume	O ₂ sat	oxygen saturation
MD	medical doctor	OA	osteoarthritis
MDI	meter dose inhaler	OCD	obsessive compulsive disorder
meds	medications	Oint	ointment
meq	milliequivalents	O & P	ova & parasites
Mg	magnesium	Ophth	Ophthalmic
mg	milligram, magnesium=	ORIF	open reduction internal fixation
MI	myocardial infarction	ortho	orthopedic
misc.	miscellaneous	O.T.	occupational therapy
ml	milliliter	OTC	over the counter
mm	millimeter	oz.	ounce
mmol	millimole	PAC	premature atrial contraction
MMSE	mini-mental status exam	PAP Smear	Papanicolaou Smear
mod	moderate	PC	After Meals
movt	movement	PEG	percutaneous endoscopic gastromy
MRI	magnetic resonance imaging		by; through
MS	multiple sclerosis	per	pupils equal, round, reactive to light
MSE	mental status exam	PERRL	
MVA	motor vehicle accident		
MVP	mitral valve prolapse		
MU	Million Units		



PERRLA	pupils equal, round, reactive to Light & accommodation	sed rate	erythrocyte sedimentation rate
PET	positron emission tomography	SLE	systemic lupus erythematosus
PFT	pulmonary function test	SOB	shortness of breath
PID	pelvic inflammatory disease	spec.	specimen
pkg	package	SC	subcutaneous
PKU	phenylketonuria	SR	sustained release
PLS	Preloaded Syringe	SSRI	Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor
P.M.	afternoon	STAT	immediately
PMH	past medical history	STI	Sexually transmitted infection
po	by mouth	Susp	Suspension
post-op	after operation	supp	suppository
PPE	personal protective equipment	T	temperature
pre-op	before operation	tab	tablet
PR	By Rectum	TB	tuberculosis
PRN;prn	as necessary; as needed	Tbsp	tablespoon
PSA	prostatic specific antigen	TCA	tricyclic antidepressant
PTSD	post traumatic stress disorder	TIA	transient ischemic attack
pt.	patient	TIBC	total iron binding capacity
PUD	peptic ulcer disease	tid	Three Times Daily
PVC	premature ventricular contraction	TENS	transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation
PVD	peripheral vascular disease	TKVO	to keep vein open
PVR	post void residual	TM	tympanic membrane
PWB	partial weight bearing	TMJ	temporomandibular joint
qid	Four Times Daily	TPN	Total Parenteral Nutrition
q(*)h	Every (*) Hours	TPR	temperature, pulse, respirations
qam	Every Morning	TSH	thyroid stimulating hormone
qhs	At Every Bedtime	T-spine	thoracic spine
qs	A Sufficient Quantity	tsp	teaspoon
RN	Registered Nurse	TURP	transurethral resection prostate
RBBB	right bundle branch block	Tx	treatment, therapy
RBC	red blood count	Td	tetanus, diphtheria toxoid
RE, re	regarding	UA, U/A	urinalysis
Rehab	rehabilitation	URI	upper respiratory infection
resp	respiratory	US	ultrasound
RL	ringers lactate	UTI	urinary tract infection
RLL	right lower lobe	Vag	Vaginal
RML	right middle lobe	VDRL	venereal disease research lab test
RLQ	right lower quadrant	VF	visual field
R.N.	registered nurse	Vfib	ventricular fibrillation
R/O	rule out	VS	vital signs
ROM	range of motion	VSS	vital signs stable
ROS	review of systems	V Tach	ventricular tachycardia
RUQ	right upper quadrant	WBC	white blood count
R/T	related to	w/c	wheelchair
RUL	right upper lobe	wt.	weight
RVH	right ventricular hypertrophy		
Rx	prescription, to take, to treat by		
Rxn	reaction		
S	subjective		
SE	side effects		

