



News release

CHNC Conference June 18th, 2010

news release

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Community Health Nurses of Canada Release Home Health Nursing Competencies

June 18, 2010: Downtown Sheraton Hotel, Toronto, Ontario

On day 3 of their national conference, the Community Health Nurses of Canada (CHNC) is releasing new Home Health Nursing Competencies. With patients being released from hospital much earlier, their care and support fall to community health nurses who are increasingly providing more complex treatments in the home. According to the Canadian Nurses Association, 60% of nursing will occur in the community by 2020.

Kate Thompson, President of CHNC stated that “ we are very pleased with the development of the competencies as they embrace the knowledge, skills, judgment and attributes required of home health nurses, as they work with individuals/families and communities within a complex health system.” The competencies will provide a foundation for further development of education, certification, practice and research within the home health care context.

CHNC developed a National Nursing Advisory Group and a 47 member expert panel to develop the competencies that are concise, yet broad enough to meet the needs of hundreds of community health nurses who provide home health services across the country. Schofield et al. (2009) in a descriptive qualitative study, designed to better understand priority issues currently facing Community Health Nurses, identified that the lack of definition and clarity, and lack of profile in the role of community health nurses contributes to community health nursing being a devalued area of nursing practice; the Community Health Nursing role needs to be consistently defined. Home Health Nursing Competencies are the integrated knowledge, skills, judgement and attributes required of a nurse working in home health to practice safely and ethically.

Home Health Nurses provide or manage the care of patients with a broad array of diagnoses across the lifespan and the health-illness continuum. Their

role is characterized by flexibility, adaptability and creative approaches to situations and problems encountered in the context of service delivery where clients live. They incorporate excellence in communication and motivation skills, applying critical thinking and clinical decision-making in the application of the nursing process. They work collaboratively with clients and their families/caregivers and as effective members within interprofessional teams. Home health nurses are committed to the provision of accessible, responsive and timely care which allows people to stay in their homes with safety and dignity.

Over 380 community health nurses from across Canada are attending the national conference co-hosted by CHNC and its provincial affiliate, The Community Health Initiatives Group of Ontario, an affiliate group of the Registered Nurses' of Ontario. The conference theme, Knowledge to Action: Engage, Enable, Inspire provided the perfect venue for launching the new document to its members and conference registrants.

In addition to the Home Health Nursing Competencies, CHNC published the Public Health Nursing Specific Competencies in June 2009 and the Canadian Community Health Nursing Standards of Practice in 2003. More information about the conference, competencies or the work of CHNC is available on the website at www.chnc.ca

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Backgrounder

The Community Health Nurses of Canada (CHNC) is an associate member of the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) and a voluntary association of community health nurses consisting of community health nurses and provincial/territorial community health nursing interest groups.

The Community Health Nurses Initiative Group (CHNIG) is an initiatives group of the Registered Nurses of Ontario. Their mission is to act as the voice of community health nurses influencing the health care system, and health and social policy in areas which affect the work of community health nurses in Ontario and the public we serve.

CHNC provides a unified national voice to represent and promote community health nursing and the health of communities.

CHNC provides a forum for community health nurses across Canada to share issues of mutual concern and to communicate through meetings and national publications

CHNC monitors trends and issues in community health nursing and identifies and responds to issues of interest and concern.

CHNC identifies and responds to issues of interest and concern which affect

all community health nurses across Canada.
CHNC represents the view of CHNC to the Canadian Nurses Association.
CHNC is a leader in the development of discipline-specific standards of practice, national community health nursing standards, and a community health nursing certification process. These activities have led to a greater understanding of community health nursing and will increase the knowledge and ability of community health nurses and nursing students in Canada.

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