



Eastern  
**Health**

***Making the Documentation  
Connection: Developing Regional  
Guidelines for Community Health  
Nurses***

*Carolyn Gosse, BN, RN, CCHN (C), Clinical Nurse Coordinator, Home & Community Care*

*Tina Skinner, MN, RN, Professional Practice Consultant-Nursing*

*Heather Hunt-Smith, MN, RN, Professional Practice Consultant-Nursing*

[www.easternhealth.ca](http://www.easternhealth.ca)



# Outline

- Eastern Health-Overview
- Why Documentation Guidelines are Necessary
- Development of Documentation Guidelines
- Education Roll Out
- Documentation Challenges-Nurses' Perspective
- Evaluation
- Summary & Next Steps



Eastern  
Health





# Why Documentation Guidelines?

- Documentation is a vital component of **safe, ethical and effective** nursing practice, regardless of the context of practice or whether the documentation is paper based or electronic
- Documentation is **not** separate from care and **not** optional
- Documentation establishes accountability, promotes quality nursing care, facilitates communication between nurses and other healthcare providers



- ARNNL Documentation Standards, 2010



Eastern  
Health



# *Why Documentation Guidelines?*

- Varying documentation practices across the region
- Need for standardization
- Orientation of Home & Community Care nurses
- Development of a standardized documentation audit tool



Eastern  
Health



# *How Guidelines Were Developed*



Eastern  
Health



- Regional Working Group
- Environmental scan of documentation practices
- Policy review
- Nursing regulatory documents – provincial and national scan



# Take A Look...



Home and Community Care Program  
Community Health Nurse  
Regional Documentation Guidelines

January 2016



# *Education Roll Out*

- January – May 2016
- Seven mandatory education sessions
- Face to face education
- Use of case examples
- Time allocated for discussion and questions
- Evaluation of sessions



Eastern  
Health





# Documentation Challenges: Nurses' Perspective



Eastern  
Health

- Different documentation systems
- Timeliness of documentation
- Impact on workload



# Evaluation Session Questions



- Did this education session meet your expectations?
- Was the presenter(s) effective in addressing the material?
- Were the ideas presented logically and clearly?
- Was there adequate opportunity for questions?
- Did you feel the information presented will assist you in your work life?



Eastern  
Health

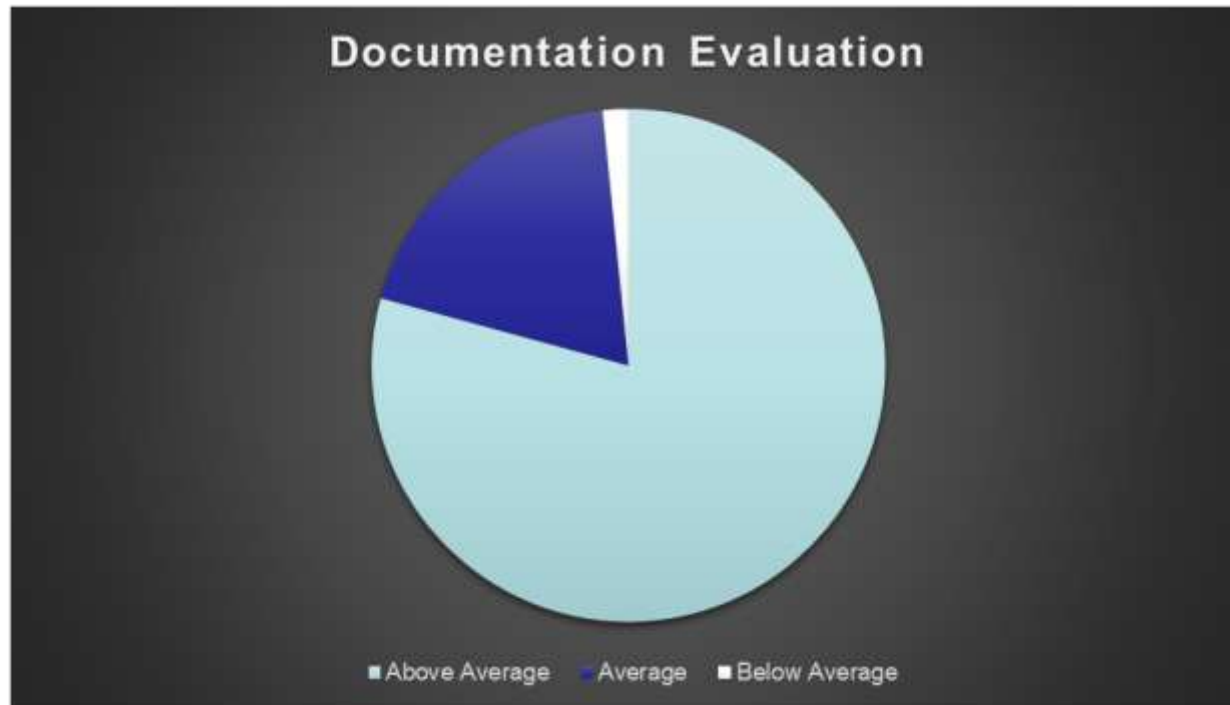


# Evaluation

Rural Avalon



Eastern  
Health

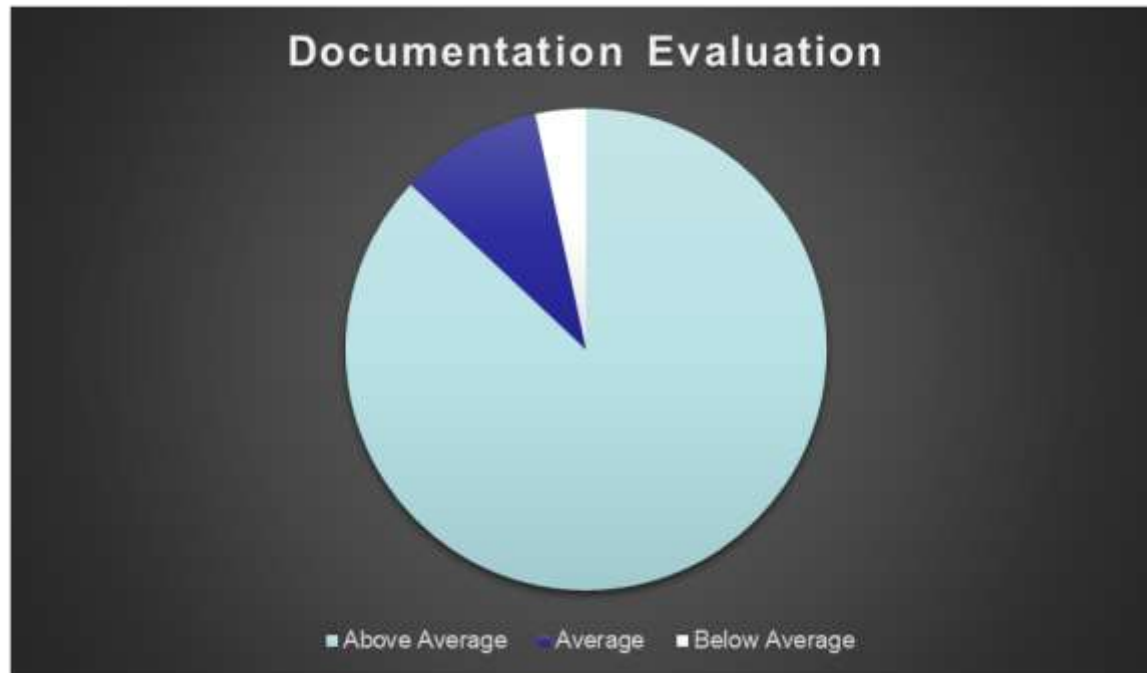


# Evaluation

Urban



Eastern  
Health



# Feedback

- “Examples were relevant and clear.”
- “Excellent. Documentation sessions should be done yearly.”
- “Great information – well presented.”
- More examples needed
- Length of sessions (too short, too long)



# Summary

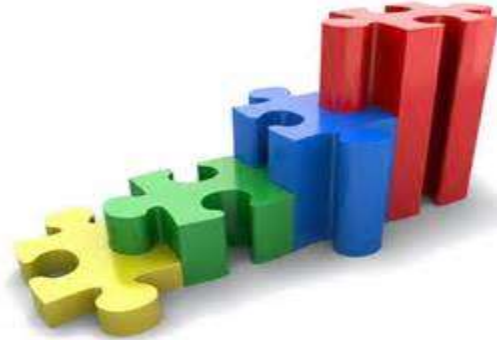
- Varying documentation practices across a large geographical region
- In an effort to standardize documentation practices, Documentation Guidelines were developed
- Regional face to face education sessions
- Evaluation of education



Eastern  
Health



# Next Steps



- Regional Documentation Audit Tool to be developed
- Annual review of document to be completed by the leadership team
- Documentation Guidelines will be revised as required based on best practices
- Documentation Guidelines to be used in all orientation sessions



Eastern  
Health



*Thank You!*



Eastern  
Health

