 Department of Health Government of Nunavut		<b>NURSING POLICY, PROCEDURE AND PROTOCOLS</b>	
		<b>Community Health Nursing</b>	
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Philosophy of Nursing		Organization	02-001-00
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The Department of Health and Social Services upholds nursing beliefs and values by integrating the philosophy of nursing into departmental policy statements. The philosophy is intended to guide nursing services and actions in order to achieve the goals of the Department and to execute the mandate of Government of Nunavut.

#### **PHILOSOPHY OF NURSING**

Nursing is a dynamic and supportive profession guided by its code of ethics. Nursing is rooted in caring, a concept evident throughout its four fields of activity: practice, education, administration, and research. Within these four domains, nurses assume roles of clinical practitioner, educator, administrator, and researcher.

These domains are interdependent, each one influencing the other. The role of clinical practitioner is the fundamental role, with the other roles existing primarily to support and maintain competent nursing practice and to foster excellence in nursing.

**Nursing Practice:** Nursing, as a professional practice, is a process requiring application of nursing theory, nursing skills, and judgment. Nursing's role may be expanded to include delegated medical functions under specific circumstances. The nursing profession and employing authority sanction or approve the delegated acts for nurses having additional preparation and specialized competence.

Nursing plays a significant role as a member of a complex multi-disciplinary health care system in which professionals and paraprofessionals work cooperatively to assist Nunavummiut, as individuals, families, groups and communities, achieve optimal health and independence. Nurses believe that health is a resource which is individually defined and influenced by multiple extrinsic factors (i.e. spiritual, cultural, social, economic, and environmental factors).

Through a holistic approach, nurses employ the nursing process to promote, maintain, and restore their client's health, which includes preventing illness and supporting a peaceful death when life is no longer sustainable.



**Nursing Education:** Nursing is based on a selected body of knowledge from the sciences, the humanities, and nursing research. It is this specific knowledge which guides nursing actions.

Nursing knowledge is dynamic and continually evolving. Basic nursing education programs provide a foundation for nursing practice; however, ongoing formal and informal education is required to strengthen the nurses' foundation and maintain safe practices.

The nurse assumes primary responsibility for acquiring basic nursing education preparation and for maintaining competence in nursing practice. Employers have a responsibility to support nurses:

- 1) In the acquisition of knowledge and skills to meet identified continuing education needs.
- 2) In the development of specialized competence demanded by specific work settings.

**Nursing Administration:** Nursing administration is a process through which organized nursing service fulfils its purpose and contributes to the achievement of comprehensive health care that is safe, competent, and ethical.

The profession of nursing influences and is influenced by administrative structures, such as, legislation, standards of nursing practice, policies, procedures and protocols. Nurses need to be aware of such administrative structures in order to effectively and safely manage their practice. It is also important for nurses to participate in the development of administrative structures to ensure a supportive work environment which is relevant to current nursing practice is created.

The quality of nursing practice is dependent upon the quality of management at the individual level and at the organizational level. The individual nurse contributes to quality assurance by making a commitment to practice according to established standards. The organization contributes to quality assurance by utilizing mechanisms/systems designed as part of a quality assurance program. Nurses have a responsibility to support and participate in quality assurance activities.

**Nursing Research:** Nurses value the ongoing discovery, acquisition, critical application and evaluation of knowledge, attitude and skills relevant to health and health care, in general, and specifically, to nursing.

Nursing research is vital to the ongoing development of nursing knowledge and practice which is responsive to, the ever-changing health needs of Nunavummiut. Nursing research ultimately supports competent practice and promotes excellence in nursing.

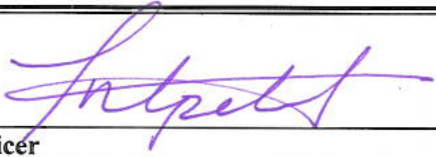



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