


5/11/2020

	Department of Health Government of Nunavut	Medical Directives and Delegation	
		All Health Services	
TITLE:		SECTION:	POLICY NUMBER:
COVID-19: Nursing Assessment & Advice Protocol		Nursing Practice	07-033-00
EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW DUE:	REPLACES NUMBER:	NUMBER OF PAGES:
March 20, 2020	March 2023	N/A	
APPLIES TO:			
Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses			

1. BACKGROUND:

COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first detected in Wuhan, China in late 2019. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Coronavirus infections are diagnosed through health care professionals in consultation with public health teams and guidance based on symptoms and typically confirmed through laboratory testing. To address the need for urgent public health information, a COVID-19 Telephone Hotline has been developed. The Department of Health *COVID-19 Nursing Assessment & Advice Protocol* is intended to 1) provide standardized health information to the public; and 2) provide an authorizing mechanism for nurses to communicate standardized public health information related to eligibility and direction for COVID-19 screening, self-monitoring, self-isolation, and advice developed through the Chief Public Health Officer.

Guidelines do not replace clinical judgement; management decisions must be individualized. Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses are expected to practice within their own level of competence and seek guidance as required.

2. MEDICAL DIRECTIVE AND/OR DELEGATED PROCEDURE:

- 2.1 Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses may determine COVID-19 screening eligibility and coordinate screening for Nunavummiut as outlined in the *COVID-19 Public Health Protocol*
- 2.2 Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses may communicate advice related to COVID-19 outlined in the *COVID-19 Public Health Protocol*
- 2.3 Registered Nurses may provide the information and screening listed in 2.1 and 2.2 via telephone interaction.

3. DEFINITIONS:

- 3.1 *Nurse* refers to registered nurse or licensed practical nurse.

4. RECIPIENT PATIENTS

- 4.1 Nunavummiut of all ages

5. AUTHORIZED IMPLEMENTERS:

- 5.1 Nurses employed by the Department of Health.
- 5.2 Sub delegation is not permitted to another regulated or non-regulated health care professional who are not listed in this medical directive.

6. CONTRAINDICATIONS TO THIS MEDICAL DIRECTIVE:

- 6.1 Health care workers inquiring about COVID-19 workplace practices must contact the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer (previously referred to as Chief Medical Officer of Health)

directly.

6.2 In the event a client or client caller reports any medical distress, the nurse is required to immediately direct them to seek medical attention in their community and document the advice given.

6.3 For telephone advice, callers not physically located in Nunavut must be advised to contact their local jurisdiction for advice. Registered Nurses' registration provides liability coverage for advice to clients in territory only.

7. PROTOCOL:

7.1 Refer to Appendix A for the *COVID-19 Public Health Protocol, including the Persons Under Investigation (PUI) Assessment Form*

8. DOCUMENTATION:

8.1 It is the nurse's responsibility to ensure documentation of telephone interaction is recorded in accordance with Department of Health *Documentation Standard*, and completion of the *COVID-19 Persons Under Investigation Assessment Form* including:

- i. Date and time of call
- ii. Name, telephone number, address of the client
- iii. Information received
- iv. Advice or information given, guided by the *PUI Assessment Form*
- v. Referral and follow-up information
- vi. Name and signature of the implementer, including designation
- vii. Pertinent information related to call, such as the client's response

9. RELATED POLICIES, PROTOCOLS AND LEGISLATION:

Appendix A: COVID-19 Public Health Protocol



CHN Manual Policy: 06-088-00 Documentation Standard

10. REFERENCES:

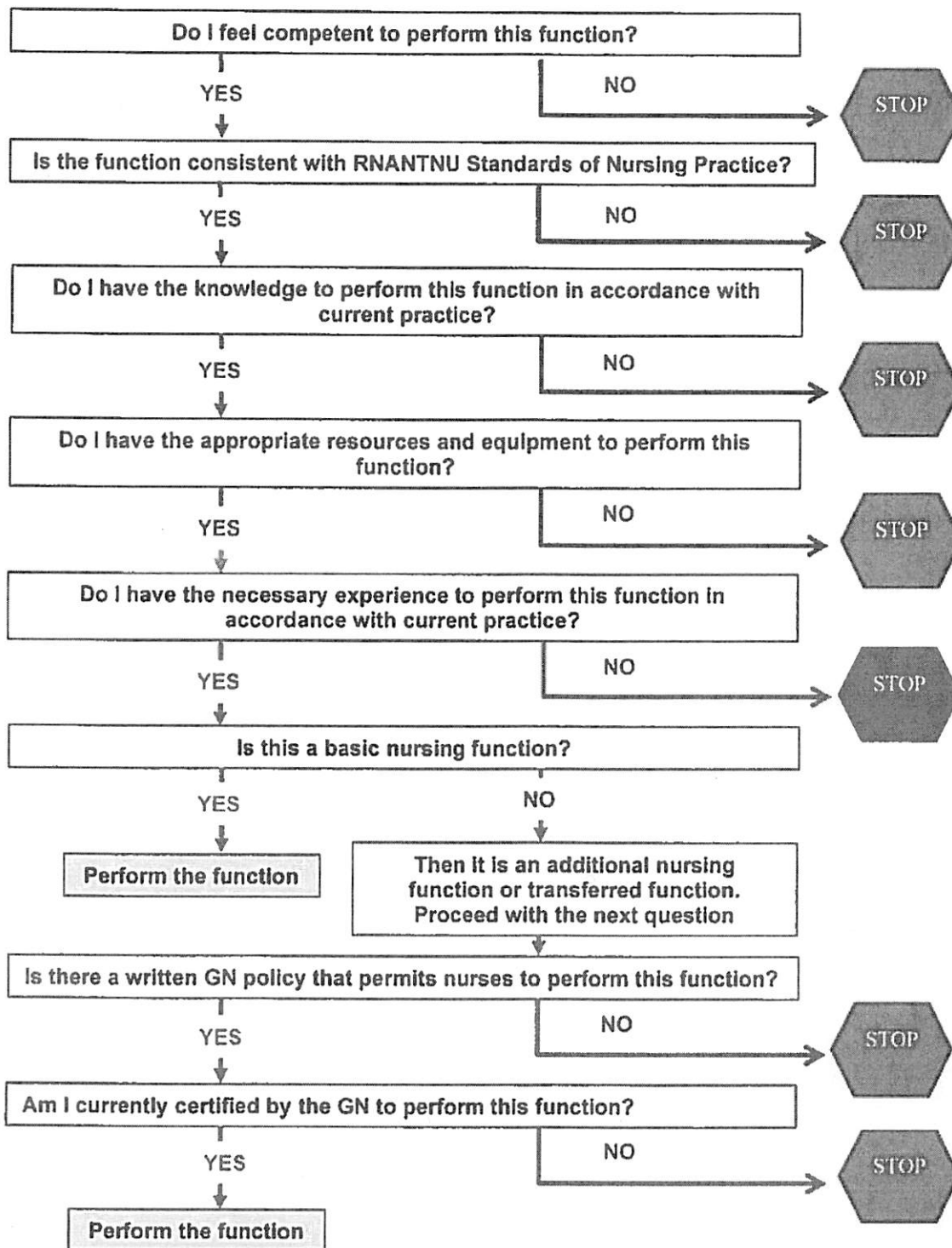
Canadian Nurse's Protective Society. Telephone Advice.

<https://www.cnps.ca/index.php?page=111>

11. APPROVAL:

Approved By: N/A	Date: N/A
Ruby Brown, Deputy Minister – Department of Health	
Approved By: 	Date: March 24/20
Monique Skinner, Chief Nursing Officer	
Approved By: 	Date: March 24/2020
Dr. Michael Patterson, Chief Public Health Officer	

APPENDIX A: DECISION-MAKING MODEL FOR PERFORMING ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS AND TRANSFERRED FUNCTIONS



RNANT/NU (2010). *Scope of Practice for Registered Nurses*, p. 9