	Department of Health Government of Nunavut	NURSING POLICY, PROCEDURE AND PROTOCOLS	
		Community Health Nursing	
TITLE:		SECTION:	POLICY NUMBER:
Community Health Nursing		Nursing Practice	07-001-00
EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW DUE:	REPLACES NUMBER:	NUMBER OF PAGES:
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APPLIES TO:			
Licenced Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses, and Nurse Practitioners			

1. BACKGROUND:

- 1.1. The Department of Health (Health) is responsible for providing healthcare services to Nunavummiut. The delivery of healthcare services within Nunavut is frequently carried out by Registered Nurses (RNs), Nurse Practitioners (NPs), and Licenced Practical Nurses (LPNs) in various roles. Nurses are regulated healthcare professionals and as such are required to be registered with the appropriate colleges and associations to practice in Nunavut.

2. POLICY:

- 2.1. RNs and NPs who are employed by health to provide healthcare services and similar are responsible for:
 - 2.1.1. Registering with the Registered Nurses Association of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (RNANT/NU) as dictated by the Nunavut *Nursing Act (S.Nu. 2003, c.17)*.
 - 2.1.2. Maintaining a good standing of their registration with RNANT/NU as dictated by the Nunavut *Nursing Act (S.Nu. 2003, c.17)*.
 - 2.1.3. Maintaining a safe level of practice and will be aware that no statement of policy by a professional association or any employing agency relieves the responsibility of the nurse for their own actions.
 - 2.1.4. Practicing within the policies, procedures, guidelines, and protocols of their employing agency and within professional standards and code of ethics.
 - 2.1.5. Clarifying employer performance expectations and familiarising themselves with how nursing is practiced within the Government of Nunavut.
 - 2.1.6. Providing healthcare services in a culturally safe manner which maintains the dignity of the client.
- 2.2. LPNs who are employed by health to provide healthcare services and similar are responsible for:
 - 2.2.1. Registering with the Nunavut Registrar of Professional Practice.
 - 2.2.2. Maintaining a good standing of their registration with the Registrar of Professional Practice.
 - 2.2.3. Maintaining a safe level of practice and will be aware that no statement of policy by a professional association or any employing agency relieves the responsibility of the nurse for their own actions.
 - 2.2.4. Practicing within the policies, procedures, guidelines, and protocols of their employing agency and within professional standards and code of ethics.

- 2.2.5. Clarifying employer performance expectations and familiarising themselves with how nursing is practiced within the Government of Nunavut.
- 2.2.6. Providing healthcare services in a culturally safe manner which maintains the dignity of the client.

2.3. Health will ensure that all RNs and NPs are successfully registered with RNANT/NU prior to the beginning of the nurse's orientation and placement and that all LNs are registered with the Nunavut Registrar of Professional Practice before beginning the nurse's orientation and placement.

3. PRINCIPLES:


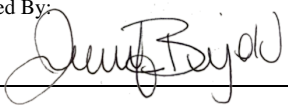
- 3.1. RNANT/NU and the Registrar of Professional Practice sets the minimum standards of practice for RNs, NPs, and LNs respectively and gives guidance to registrants, employers, and educators. RNANT/NU and the Registrar of Professional Practice provides information for the general public as evidence of basic expectations for all Nurses. Registration with RNANT/NU or the Registrar of Professional Practice is a legal requirement to safeguard client care and maintain competency of practice.
- 3.2. Through the Nunavut *Nursing Act (S.Nu. 2003, c.17)* RNs and NPs are held accountable for upholding the standards of practice and code of ethics as set out by RNANT/NU. LNs are held accountable for upholding the standards of practice and the code of ethics through the Registrar of Professional Practice
- 3.3. The scope of practice is a continuum of learning and development. Performing a nursing function responsibly requires understanding of the theory behind the function, the skill to perform the function, and the judgement to perform the function at the correct time.
- 3.4. Nurses must practice within their own level of competence. When aspects of care are beyond the level of the nurse's competence, the nurse must seek additional information or knowledge, seek help and guidance from a supervisor or a competent practitioner, and/or request a different work assignment. In the interim, the nurse will provide reasonable care within their level of competency until another nurse is available to perform the task(s).

4. RELATED POLICIES, PROTOCOLS AND LEGISLATION:

- Policy 05-006-00 Employer Responsibilities
- Policy 05-007-00 Employee Responsibilities
- Policy 05-008-00 Nursing Practice – Additional Nursing Function
- Guideline 05-008-01 Developing a Policy for Additional Nursing Functions
- Guideline 05-008-02 Performing Additional Nursing Functions
- Reference 05-008-03 Decision Making Model for Performing Additional Nursing Functions and Delegated Medical Functions
- Policy 05-009-00 Transferred Functions
- Guideline 05-009-01 Policy Guidelines for Transferred Functions
- Guideline 05-009-02 Parameters for Performing Transferred Functions

5. REFERENCES:

- Alberta Association of Registered Nurses, Alberta Health Authorities, Alberta Medical Association, & College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta. (1987). Joint Statement: Nursing Practice.
- Edmonton, AB: Alberta Association of Registered Nurses.
- Canadian Nurses Association (2008). Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses. Ottawa, ON.
- Registered Nurses association of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Standards of Practice for Registered Nurses: Professional Responsibility and Accountability. Yellowknife, NT.
- Registered Nurses Association of Northwest Territories and Nunavut (2004). Guidelines for Nursing Practice Decisions. Yellowknife: RNANTNU

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