 Department of Health Government of Nunavut		Medical Directives and Delegation	
		Community Health Nursing	
TITLE:		SECTION:	POLICY NUMBER:
CHN Expanded Role: Diagnosing, initiating lab and x-ray tests, and initiating drug treatment		Nursing Practice	07-031-00
EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW DUE:	REPLACES NUMBER:	NUMBER OF PAGES:
July 21, 2021	July, 2024	07-031-00	6
APPLIES TO:			
Community Health Nurses			

1. BACKGROUND:

The Legislative Assembly of Nunavut provides the legislative acts that regulate the nursing profession in Nunavut. The Registered Nurses Association of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (RNANTNU) set the standards and scope of practice for Registered Nurses (RN).

Community Health Nurses (CHN) are RNs who work in an expanded role through the execution of advanced nursing skills and medical directives to assess, diagnose, plan, initiate and evaluate care. This policy provides an authorising mechanism by which CHNs may perform specified duties through Government of Nunavut (GN) policies, clinical guidelines, protocols, and directives (PCGPD) or First Nation Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG), Clinical Care Pathways (CCP), & Emergency Clinical Care Pathways (E-CCP) that are within scope of another regulated health care professional, such as physicians and nurse practitioners (NP), without a direct order from that healthcare professional.

2. MEDICAL DIRECTIVE:

2.1 CHNs may (1) formulate and communicate medical diagnoses; (2) initiate lab and x-ray tests; (3) initiate routine comprehensive ultrasound tests for prenatal patients; and (4) perform delegated clinical procedures without a physician or NP order, as directed only by the resources found in *Appendix A*.

3. LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

- 3.1 Consolidation of Nursing Act S.N.W.T. 1998, c.38, s.4 (Current to 2011-03-22)
- 3.2 RNANTNU Standards of Practice (2019)
- 3.3 RNANTNU Scope of Practice (2019)
- 3.4 CNA Code of Ethics (2017)
- 3.5 Consolidation of Medical Profession Act R.S.N.W.T. 1988, c. M-9 (Current to 2006-02-06)

4. AUTHORISED IMPLEMENTERS:

- 4.1 CHN and Supervisor of Community Health Programs (SCHP) who possess the knowledge, skill, and judgment to do so. The CHN is required to demonstrate competency to implement this medical directive through the standard orientation process.
- 4.2 Subdelegating or redelegating of a delegated task is explicitly forbidden. CHNs may not subdelegate or redelegate a task that has been delegated to them through this medical directive.

- 4.2.1 When two or more CHNs are working together toward a common cause, such as an urgent or emergent situation, any of the CHNs involved in the event may complete the ordered task provided the task falls within their scope of work. This is seen as a team working together as opposed to subdelegating or redelegating an order.
- 4.2.2 If the assistance of another non-regulated or regulated healthcare professional, such as a LPN, and/or Paramedic is required, a physician or NP's order must be in place prior to the completion of the task.

5. PRINCIPLES:

- 5.1 CHNs must practice within their own level of competence and seek guidance from their supervisor, a physician, or an NP as required. Refer to Appendix B.
- 5.2 Guidelines do not replace clinical judgment; decisions must be individualised.
- 5.3 A physician or NP must be consulted before enacting this medical directive when any of the following conditions exist:
 - 5.3.1 The CHN cannot confirm that all conditions of this directive have been met.
 - 5.3.2 The patient's history or physical exam does not match the criteria set forth in a corresponding GN PCGPD or FNIHB CPG, CCP, e-CCP.
 - 5.3.3 The GN PCGPD or FNIHB CPG, CCP, E-CCP recommends physician or NP consultation first.

6. PROCEDURE:

- 6.1 The process for creating a treatment plan is as follows: The CHN will refer to approved GN PCGPD first; if none are available the CHN will then refer to the FNIHB CPG, CCP or E-CCP; if none are available, the CHN will then consult a physician or NP. See *Appendix B* for Process for Creating Treatment Plan by Community Health Nurse.
- 6.2 If a medication is indicated, the CHN will then refer to the Nunavut Formulary and may initiate drug therapy without a direct physician or NP order according to the Health Centre Treatment Code found in the formulary. If the CHN is not authorized to initiate medication as indicated in GN PCGPD, or FNIHB CPG, CCP or e-CCP, then they must consult with a physician or NP. See *Appendix B* for Process for Ordering Diagnostics and/or Medications as a Community Health Nurse.
- 6.3 The CHN may use the approved *Pharmacy Health Centre Reference List* to inform decisions for most up to date treatment plan and medications. This resource list is only to be used to ensure that the treatment being provided is best practice and is supportive to the GN PCGPD or the FNIHB CPG, CCP or E-CCP. If the best practice treatment recommendation does not align with GN PCGPD or the FNIHB CPG, CCP, or E-CCP then you must consult with physician or NP.
- 6.4 If there is no GN approved PCGPD directing a CHN to initiate a medication, treatment, clinical procedure, lab, x-ray, or ultrasound test, the CHN must consult a physician or NP. See *Appendix B* for Process for Ordering Diagnostics and/or Medications as a Community Health Nurse.

7. DOCUMENTATION:

- 7.1 When a CHN enacts this medical directive, they must document:
 - 7.1.1 Encouraged to indicate the name and number (when applicable) of the GN PCGPD or FNIHB CPG, CCP, e-CCP, policy, protocol or directive utilised to provide care;
 - 7.1.2 Name and signature, including designation; and



- 7.1.3 Pertinent information related to the treatment or procedure performed, such as the patient's response, to be documented in accordance with GN and RNANTNU documentation standards.

8. APPENDICES:

APPENDIX A: Resources for CHN Expanded Role

APPENDIX B: Process for Creating Treatment Plan by Community Health Nurse AND Process for Ordering Diagnostics and/or Medications as a Community Health Nurse

9. RELATED POLICIES, PROTOCOLS AND LEGISLATION:

Community Health Nursing Manual

FNIHB Clinical Practice Guidelines for Nurses in Primary Care – Adult

FNIHB Clinical Practice Guidelines for Nurses in Primary Care – Pediatric and Adolescent

FNIHB Clinical Care Pathways and Emergency Clinical Care Pathways

Government of Nunavut TB Manual 2018

Government of Nunavut Communicable Disease Manual 2016

Government of Nunavut Immunization Manual 2017

Government of Nunavut Formulary 2017

10. REFERENCES:


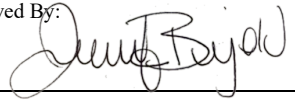
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Documentation guidelines. <https://rnanntnu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Documentation-Guidelines-RNANTNU-Effective-January-19-20151.pdf>

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APPROVALS:

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Approved By: 	Date: July 21, 2021
Jenifer Bujold, Chief Nursing Officer	
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Dr. Francois de Wet, Medical Chief of Staff, on behalf of the Medical Advisory Committee	

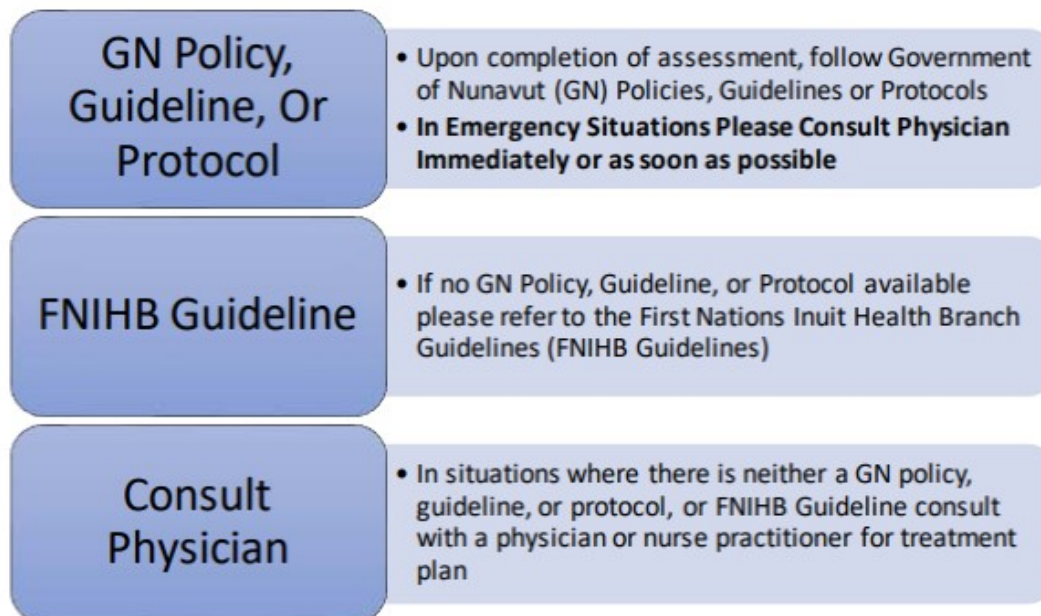
APPENDIX A: RESOURCES FOR CHN EXPANDED ROLE

GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT (GN) POLICY, CLINICAL GUIDELINE, PROTOCOL OR DIRECTIVE (PCGPD)	FOUND
Community Health Centre Manual	HTTPS://WWW.GOV.NU.CA/HEALTH/INFO RMATION/MANUALS-GUIDELINES
Prenatal Record and Guidelines for Completing Prenatal Records	
Well Child Record and Guideline for Completing Well Child	
Communicable Disease Manual	
Influenza Immunization Protocol 2020-2021	
Nunavut Synagis Protocol Manual 2019	
GN Public Health Directive or Protocol issued by the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer and /or Chief Medical Officer	
Other GN approved policies, procedures, screening and management protocols, and medical directives including Cervical Screening Guideline, Protocol for Identifying and Treating Iron Deficiency Anemia in Infants and Young Children, and the Revised Vitamin D Supplementation Protocol November 2014	
Febrile Child Protocol	MICROSOFT TEAMS-NUNAVUT NURSES EDUCATION OR DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FIRST NATIONS INUIT HEALTH BRANCH GUIDELINES (FNIHB)	FOUND
FNIHB Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) for Nurses in Primary Care – Adult Care	HTTPS://WWW.CANADA.CA/EN/INDIGENO US-SERVICES-CANADA/SERVICES/FIRST- NATIONS-INUIT-HEALTH/HEALTH-CARE- SERVICES/NURSING/CLINICAL-PRACTICE- GUIDELINES-NURSES-PRIMARY- CARE/ADULT-CARE.HTML
FNIHB Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) for Nurses in Primary Care – Pediatric and Adolescent Care	HTTPS://WWW.CANADA.CA/EN/INDIGENO US-SERVICES-CANADA/SERVICES/FIRST- NATIONS-INUIT-HEALTH/HEALTH-CARE- SERVICES/NURSING/CLINICAL-PRACTICE- GUIDELINES-NURSES-PRIMARY-CARE.HTML
FNIHB integrated adult and pediatric Clinical Care Pathways (CCP) and Emergency Clinical Care Pathways (e-CCPs)	MICROSOFT TEAMS-NUNAVUT NURSES EDUCATION OR DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



APPENDIX B:
PROCESS FOR CREATING TREATMENT PLAN BY COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSE AND
PROCESS FOR ORDERING DIAGNOSTICS AND/OR MEDICATIONS AS A COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSE

Process for Creating Treatment Plan by Community Health Nurse



Process for Ordering Diagnostics and/or Medications as a Community Health Nurse

