

DEFINITION OF TERMS 03-001-00

Accountability: Quality of being answerable and liable for one's own judgements and actions.

Additional Nursing Function: Are nursing functions for which basic nursing programs provide neither specific theory nor clinical practice.

Agency: Any recognized organization, institution, or business which employs a registered nurse for the purpose of implementing health programs and delivering health services.

Authorization: Process by which registered nurses are given approval by the Department of Health and Social Services to carry out nursing or delegated medical functions based upon written policies and adherence to nursing specific guidelines.

Basic Nursing Functions: Can be divided into two categories:

“A” Level Basic Nursing Function: Nursing functions for which a nurse has gained both a theoretical understanding and skills competence.

“B” Level Basic Nursing Function: Nursing functions for which a nurse has received specific theoretical instruction, but not necessarily developed skills competence.

Basic Nursing Programs: Any nursing program which leads to either a diploma or a baccalaureate degree in nursing that qualifies a nurse for registration.

Certification: Is the issuance of a certificate on the successful completion of a formalized program of instruction and supervised practice as one means of developing specialized competence.

Client: “Recipient of service may be the individual, family, group, aggregate or community of concern to the Government of Nunavut or registered nurse” (Registered Nurses Association of Ontario: Standards of Nursing Practice for Community Health Nurses in Ontario, May 1985).

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI): A management approach to improving and maintaining quality that emphasizes internally driven and relatively continuous assessments of potential causes of quality defects, followed by action aimed either at avoiding decrease in quality or else correcting it an early stage.

Delegated Medical Functions: Those functions within the practice of medicine that physicians are permitted to delegate to nurses with specialized competence.

Home and Community Care Nurse: A registered nurse who provides nursing and medical services where the client lives - often in one's own home, a family member's home or in an assisted-living community.

Guideline: A summary of information provided as a reference or resource to Health Agencies and registered nurses.

Inservice Education: A method of instruction/training provided to employees for professional development, dissemination of information, and for development of specialized competence.

Job Description: A written statement listing the qualifications and major responsibilities of an individual who holds a specific position.



Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN): Are regulated health care professionals who work under a narrower nursing scope of practice than the registered nurse.

Medical Functions: Any activity based upon sound medical knowledge and implemented with skill and judgement in the course of medical practice.

Nunavut Formulary for Community Health Centres: A formula guideline developed and maintained by the Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee. Specific criteria regarding drug formularies are located in Drug Prescription Policy.

Nurse Practitioner: An advanced practice registered nurse who is prepared through a formal nursing educational program to provide a full range of primary health care services. The nurse practitioner, utilizing a broad knowledge base, focuses on health promotion, prevention of disease/health problems, early diagnosis and treatment of common acute minor illnesses and injuries, and management of stabilized chronic illnesses.

Nursing Function: Any activity based upon sound nursing knowledge and implemented with skill and judgement in the course of nursing practice.

Nursing Leadership Advisory Committee: A committee comprised of representatives from various nursing disciplines who provide strategic leadership to support professional nursing practice within Nunavut. The NLAC provides a responsive venue for members of the Nunavut nursing community to discuss, come to consensus on, make decisions and take actions on issues related to practice, education, leadership, communication, patient safety and recruitment and retention.

Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee: A committee comprised of representatives from pharmacy, medicine, nursing, and administration who have specific responsibilities under Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee Policy.

Physician: is a registered medical practitioner as defined in the Medical Profession Act (S.Nu. 2001, c.10, s.5).

Policy: A written statement that clearly describes the responsibility and actions to be taken in a given set of circumstances. A policy provides direction for decision making.

Protocol: Written statement of the approach to management and treatment for any given condition.

Procedure: Step by step instructions for the implementation of nursing and medical functions.

Public Health Nurse: Public health nursing is a specialized form of registered nursing that combines nursing and public health principles. The primary focus of public health nursing is improving the health of the community as a whole rather than just that of an individual or family.

Registered Nurse: “A graduate of a recognized approved nursing program who has successfully completed the qualifying examinations, has met the requirements for registration and is registered in accordance with the Nursing Profession Act” (S.Nu. 2003, c. 17).

Registered Psychiatric Nurse: is the speciality of nursing that cares for people of all ages with mental illness and promotes mental wellness. Nurses in this area receive additional training in psychological



therapies, building a therapeutic alliance, dealing with challenging behaviour, and the administration of psychiatric medication.

Responsibility: The quality of being answerable for implementing nursing and sanctioned medical functions which involve obligations or duties as a registered nurse.

Sanctioned Medical Functions: Delegated medical functions that can be safely implemented by nurses with specialized competence who are authorized to do so by their employing agency.

- i. Sanctioned Independent Medical Functions: are delegated medical functions which may be implemented by a nurse with specialized competence without consulting a physician.
- ii. Sanctioned Dependent Medical Functions: are delegated medical functions which may be implemented by a nurse with specialized competence after consultation with a physician.

Specialized Competence: A quality of having completed a post basic nursing education program of instruction and supervised practice in a specific function or field of practice which has been developed in response to an identified need and within a framework which allows for safe implementation and competent practice.

Standard: “a generally accepted written expectation amenable to measurement through the development of specific behaviours (criteria) against which the actual performance can be judged” (Registered Nurses Association of Nova Scotia: Standards for Nursing Practice, 1985).

