



Collaboration of Practitioners, Managers, and Educators in Developing National Community Health Nursing Student Clinical Placement Guidelines

CASN
Sub-Committee on Public Health
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Challenges Facing Baccalaureate Nursing Programs

- **Calls to increase** community health nurses
- **Strong community clinical practice component** is required for acquisition of community health nursing knowledge
- **Decreasing clinical placements** to support community health nursing education
- **Calls to standardize** the educational quality of community health nursing clinical placements



Background

- CASN Sub Committee on Public Health formed - 2004
- **Mandate**
 - To assist CASN members in ensuring all baccalaureate nursing graduates are prepared to meet the Canadian standards for community health nursing practice



Objectives

- Level community/public health competencies for baccalaureate nursing graduates
- Develop a tool for schools of nursing to assess placements to determine suitability relevant to community health nursing education



Method

- **National survey**
- **Focus group consultations** at national conferences (2008)
 - CHNAC Annual Conference
 - CPHA Annual Conference
 - CNA Annual Conference



- **Report from focus groups:**

“Characteristics of a Quality Community Health Nursing Clinical Placement for Baccalaureate Nursing Students”

Prepared by Robin Ray and Dr Donna Meagher-Stewart



- **Preliminary** community health nursing placement guidelines developed
- **Focus group consultations** at national conferences (June 2009)
 - CHNC Annual Conference
 - CPHA Annual Conference
- **Revisions** to guidelines based on consultations
- **Guidelines approved by CASN Board of Directors (March 2010)**



Guideline Characteristics

Essential: Characteristics that should be present for quality community health nursing clinical placements

Preferred: Characteristics that, although preferred, may not be possible in all instances



Community Health Nurse Identity

ESSENTIAL:

- **Faculty advisor/clinical instructor**
 - Knowledge
 - Able to translate the community placement experience so the students can understand the community health nursing role

PREFERRED:

- **Faculty advisor/clinical instructor**
 - Current community health nursing practice experience.



Community Health Nursing Scope of Practice

ESSENTIAL:

- **potential for**
 - students to work with clients at group and/or community levels
 - exposure to broad determinants of health, citizen engagement, population health, and primary health care principles
- **exposure to**
 - multiple community health nursing strategies e.g.. Building healthy public policy; Developing personal skills; Strengthening community action; Creating supportive environments; Reorienting health services
- **opportunities for**
 - Practical experience
 - Collaborative partnerships

PREFERRED:

- **opportunities for**
 - the student to engage in practice with community as client
- **experience**
 - being part of an interprofessional and potentially intersectoral team
- **Rural, remote and international placements**



Competent, Well-Prepared Preceptor

ESSENTIAL:

- Organizational supports to preceptors
 - **Time** to effectively support students
- **Preceptor has:**
 - positive attitude toward preceptorship and life-long learning
 - experience working in and/or with communities
 - the ability to help students apply theory into practice

PREFERRED:

- Formal preceptor orientation & provided collaboratively
- Preceptor is a nurse with community health nursing experience and necessary knowledge



Supportive Environment for Student Learning

ESSENTIAL:

- Communication between faculty, preceptors and students
- Setting is open to student mentoring
- Student orientation
- Student safety

PREFERRED:

- Communication *at least* at the beginning, middle and end of the experience involving faculty, preceptors and students.
- Student preference in placement choice



Community-Academic Partnerships

ESSENTIAL:

- Formalized agreements
- Clearly defined roles and expectations
- Formal recognition of preceptor contribution

PREFERRED:

- Formalized cross-appointments



Glossary

- Community health nurse
- Exposure
- Faculty advisor/clinical instructor
- Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion
- Preceptor
- Primary Health Care Principles
- Public Health Sciences
- CASN



Dissemination of Guidelines

- Disseminated electronically to CASN member schools, sub-committee on public health local and national networks, i.e., CHNC, CHNIC, CPHA
- CASN web site
- Distribution of hard copies at national conferences in Spring 2010
- Ongoing stakeholder consultations on further dissemination



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