CHNC
COMMUNITY
HEALTH NURSES
OF CANADA

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INFIRMIÈRES ET INFIRMIERS
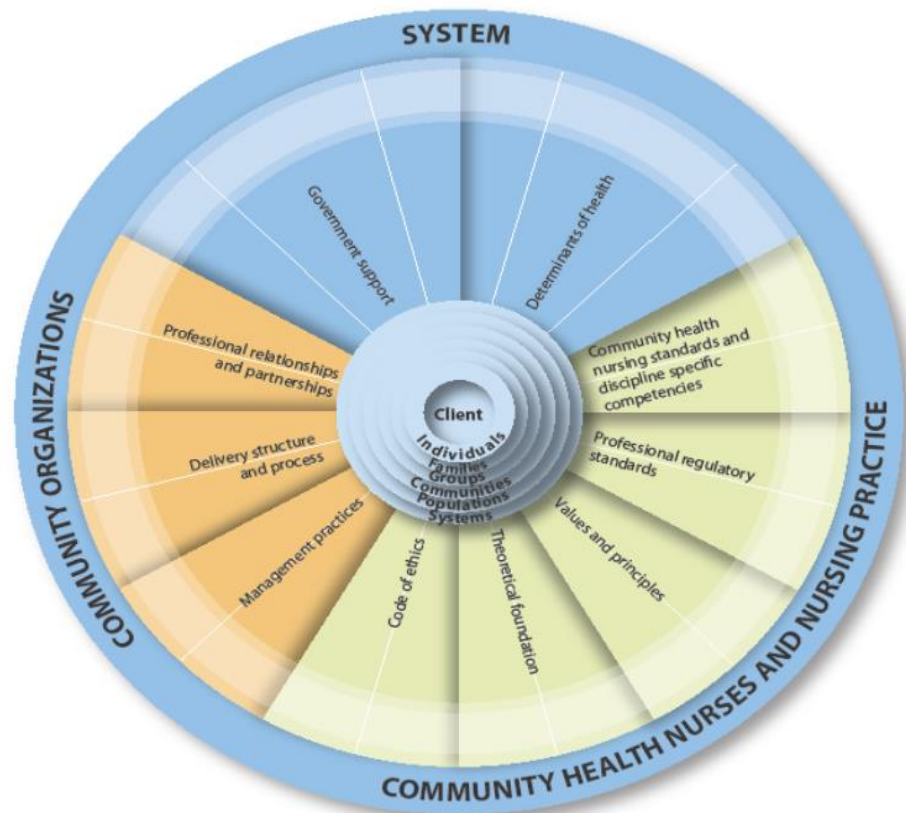EN SANTÉ COMMUNAUTAIRE
DU CANADA

Canadian Community Health Nursing
Professional Practice Model (CHNC, 2013)
www.chnc.ca

Components

Code of Ethics

The Canadian Nurses Association's *Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses* is a statement of the ethical values of nurses and of nurses' commitments to persons with health-care

needs and persons receiving care. It is intended for nurses in all contexts and domains of nursing practice and at all levels of decision-making. It is developed by nurses for nurses and can assist nurses in practising ethically and working through ethical challenges that arise in their practice with individuals, families, groups, communities, populations and systems.

Professional Regulatory Standards

Professional regulatory standards demonstrate to the public, government and other stakeholders that a profession is dedicated to maintaining public trust and upholding the criteria of its professional practice. (CNA Website)

Community Health Nurse

Community health nurses:

- View health as a resource for everyday living.
- Promote, protect and preserve the health of individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations in the settings where they live, work, learn, worship and play in an ongoing and/ or episodic process.1
- Consider and address the impact of the social determinants of health within the political, cultural and environmental context on health.
- Support capacity building focused on client strengths and client participation.
- Protect and enhance human dignity respecting social, cultural, and personal beliefs and circumstances of their clients.
- Advocate and engage in political action and healthy public policy options to facilitate healthy living.
- Incorporate the concepts of inclusiveness, equity and social justice as well as the principles of community development
- Participate in knowledge generation and knowledge translation, and integrate knowledge and multiple ways of knowing.
- Engage in evidence informed decision making.
- Work at a high level of autonomy.
- Have a personal commitment and accountability to professional practice with an emphasis on teamwork, collaboration, consultation and professional relationships.

Values and Principles

Values are part of a collective belief system that underpins professional practice, informs the development of educational programs2 and guides administration. Community health nursing is rooted in caring3 and social justice as reflected in public policies such as the Canada Health Act4, the declaration of Alma Ata5, the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion6, the Jakarta Declaration7, the Bangkok Charter for Health Promotion8 and the "Nairobi Call to Action"9 which are consistent with the Community Health Nurses of Canada Vision Statement.10 The community health nursing is accountable, committed to quality care and competency through continuous professional development.

Theoretical Foundation

The practice of community health nursing combines nursing theory and knowledge, social sciences and public health science with home health and primary health care

principles. The nursing metaparadigm includes: person (individuals, families, community, group, and populations), health, nursing, environment [culture] and social justice as central to the practice of community health nursing. [11,12]

Discipline Specific Competencies
Competencies are the integrated knowledge, skills, judgment and attributes required of a registered nurse to practice safely and ethically. Attributes include, but are not limited to attitudes, values and beliefs.[13,14]

Professional Relationships & Partnerships
Professional relationships in community health nursing have an impact on communication, consultation, collaboration and forming effective partnerships with clients, team members other professionals as well as other sectors and organizations.[15] Community health nurses:
> • Recognize assets and capacity of people/partners in building collaborative partnerships based on the principles of primary health care, caring, social justice and empowerment.
> • Establish respectful, trusting relationships / partnerships with individuals, families, groups, communities, populations, and systems.
> • Ensure individuals, families, groups, communities, populations and systems are active partners in defining their health issues and in making decisions that affect their health and well being
> • Build professional relationships and partnerships with colleagues, other disciplines, communities and sectors that support inter-professional collaboration.
> • Recognize socio-political and cultural influences that may impact relationship and partnership building.

Management Practices
 Management practices refer to the structure and processes for decision-making within community organizations and agencies. An approach consistent with professional nursing values such as autonomy and accountability will support community health nurses to practice their full scope of skills and knowledge. Effective management practices promote realization of the full potential of community health nursing resources with a goal of excellence in community health/public health nursing practice. Formal communication and decision making mechanisms are essential for effective community health nursing professional practice. This involves having direct authority relating to "creating an environment that supports clinicians to incorporate evidence-based practice, maintain their competency and/or create systems and processes to enhance practice and professional development."[16] Community health nurses take personal and professional satisfaction from their contribution in promoting the health and well-being of individuals, families, groups, communities, populations and systems. Community health nurses value a management approach that recognizes their contribution both informally and formally. Examples of rewards include but are not limited to: celebration of successes; certification; promotion and professional advancement or remuneration.

Delivery Structure and Process

A variety of service delivery models that integrate Community Health Nursing Process into practice are used in community health nursing including, but not limited to: generalist practice based on geographic location (e.g. neighbourhood nursing), focused practice (based on developmental stage or health issue (e.g. sexual health, post partum, wound care, shift nursing, palliative care), or care process (e.g. team nursing, primary health care, case management or perhaps family centered care). Community health nursing practice roles and activities are continually evolving to meet the health needs of the different population groups17, 18. Service delivery is focused on preventive/curative/social aspects of care and is responsive to community needs and takes into consideration stewardship of resources as an appropriate means of making services less costly, and more efficient and effective.

Community Health Nursing Standards
A key characteristic of a self-regulating profession like nursing is the development of standards of practice based on the values of the profession. Practice standards describe the knowledge, skills, judgment and attitudes needed to practice nursing safely. They represent the desirable and achievable levels of performance expected of nurses in their practice and provide criteria for measuring actual performance (College of Nurses of Ontario, 2002)

Government Support
Provision of community health nursing in Canada requires government resources and supportive policies. Decisions about funded services, resources, performance standards and policies that affect community well-being as well as the nursing profession all have an impact on the ability of community health nurses to deliver care consistent with their professional standards. Consultation with the nursing community will assist government to make decisions that optimize health in the community.

Social Determinants of Health
The social determinants of health19, are the individual and collective factors and conditions affecting health status. The social determinants of health extend beyond the community health nurses practice environment and scope of influence but impact on CHN practice because of their profound influence on the health of their clients (individuals, families, groups, communities, populations and systems). Community health nurses support their clients by recognizing and identifying these factors as major influences on health status and in advocating for positive means to address these issues.

Health of Client (Individuals, Families, Groups, Communities, Populations, Systems)
Community health nurses practice in health centres, homes, schools and other community based settings. Using a capacity building and strength-based approach, they provide, coordinate or facilitate direct care and link people to community resources. Community health nurses view health as a dynamic process of physical, mental, spiritual and social well-being. Health includes self-determination and a sense of connection to the community. The practice of community health nursing community health nurses support

the health and well-being of individuals, families, groups , communities , populations and systems.