Summary of Process Undertaken to Inform Revisions to the Canadian Community Health Nursing Standards of Practice

Prepared for the Community Health Nurses of Canada

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BACKGROUND
This scoping review was undertaken by a working group that worked closely with this research team to inform a review and revisions to the Canadian Community Health Nursing Standards of Practice. The Standards were first published by the Community Health Nurses Association of Canada (CHNAC) in 2003 and were edited and re-printed in 2008 and 2011. The specific purpose of this scoping review was to determine the degree to which the Standards remain comprehensive, current and relevant for contemporary community health nursing practice.

SCOPING REVIEW DESIGN
The five-stage methodological framework for conducting scoping reviews as described by Arksey and O’Malley (2005) was used to examine whether the current literature provides evidence that each of the Standards remain valid and to identify potential content gaps. See Figure 1 for an overview of the five stages of this scoping review methods and results.

The following two broad questions guided the scoping review:
1. Does the literature provide evidence that each of the Standards remain valid?
2. Are there content gaps in the Standards?

SEARCH STRATEGY
Using a search strategy designed with the assistance of a professional librarian, a total of three databases of peer-reviewed literature were searched including: Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL); PubMed; and Scopus. The bibliographies of studies found through the database searches were checked to ensure relevant references were included in this scoping review. Endnote software was used to help keep track of the articles and to remove duplicates. The primary author recorded each database searched and number of articles for each set of results as they were imported into Endnote.

KEY SEARCH WORDS FOR ELECTRONIC DATABASE SEARCH
Relevant studies were identified through a search of the literature using the following search terms:
- Primary care
- Primary health care
- Community-oriented primary care
- Community health
- Population health
- Public health
- Public health nurse/nursing
- Community health nurse/nursing

INCLUSION CRITERIA
Each article (academic study or grey literature report) was assed for inclusion on the following eligibility criteria. First, the article must have been published or made available between 2012 and 2018. This six-year period included all new literature since the last review of the Standards
in 2011. Second, the article must have been concerned with aspects of community health nursing practice. Although primacy was given to Canadian publications, articles describing practice in countries other than Canada were included if they revealed additional stands or practice indicators relevant to community health nursing practice in Canada. Third, the article addressed practice broadly defined (including provision of a health service or program, education or training program, media campaign, or policy change). There were no restrictions on research design or evaluation approach. In keeping with the scoping review design, articles were included regardless of research design and methodological quality. Articles could use quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods approaches. Articles that were not available in English were excluded from the review.

**Exclusion Criteria**
Exclusion criteria were articles focusing on nurse practitioners, advanced practice, licensed practical nurses, nurse managers, care technicians, and extended practice roles such as nurse anaesthetists. Papers about education for entry to practice or for continuing competence, and specific clinical competence development or assessment (e.g. wound care) were removed. Additionally, articles were excluded if they focused on historical, financial or legal matters, tool development or intervention evaluation, book reviews, editorials, commentaries, or announcements.

**Gray Literature**
Google searches were conducted for specific topics (e.g. telehealth, TRC, MAID) and the Internet sites listed below were searched to identify and retrieve gray literature that had the potential to inform revisions to the standards.

Canadian Association for Parish Nursing Ministry ([http://www.capnm.ca/](http://www.capnm.ca/))
Community Health Nurses of Canada ([www.chnc.ca](http://www.chnc.ca))
Community Health Nurses Initiatives Group of RNAO ([www.chnig.org](http://www.chnig.org))
Canadian Health Services Research Foundation ([www.chsrf.ca](http://www.chsrf.ca))
Canadian Home Care Association ([http://www.cdnhomecare.ca](http://www.cdnhomecare.ca))
Canadian Nurses Association ([www.cna-aic.ca](http://www.cna-aic.ca))
Canadian Public Health Association ([http://www.cpha.ca](http://www.cpha.ca))
Public Health Agency of Canada ([http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca))
Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada ([http://www.trc.ca/](http://www.trc.ca/))
World Health Organization, Canada ([http://www.who.int/countries/can/en](http://www.who.int/countries/can/en))

The electronic peer-review database search and grey literature searches yielded a total of 147 articles relevant to this review.

**Charting the Data**
A research team divided the peer-reviewed articles for reading and data extraction. Data extracted were charted and organized thematically according to the seven current Standards: (1) health promotion; (2) prevention and health protection; (3) health maintenance,
restoration, and palliation; (4) professional relationships; (5) capacity building; (6) access and equity; and (7) professional responsibility and accountability (CHNC, 2011). Each of the indicators for the Standards were used as subthemes. Care was taken about the amount and content of material transposed to a chart to protect against loss of context and steps were taken to ensure I could go back to the original source.

**Collating, Summarizing, and Reporting the Results**

To aid with data analysis, descriptive and conceptually oriented matrices as described by Miles and Huberman (1994) were constructed. The development of matrices was an iterative process that involved systematically reading and judging the meaning of the text within each descriptive thematic node (each Standards) and determining key patterns. Data from each category and its sub-categories were lifted from its original text and plotted in a separate chart (e.g., main categories as rows and subcategories as columns).

- A full report is to follow.
Figure 1: Stages of the scoping literature review methods and results