

The interview about Community Health Nursing in Canada with:

Nancy Eros R.N.

Director of Nursing

Caressant Care Fergus

Ontario, Canada

donfergus@caressantcare.com

Valentina Krikšić

Q: Please, can you in short define community health nursing in Canada?

A: Community health nurses in Canada support the health and well-being of individuals, families, groups, communities, populations and systems. They view health as dynamic process physical, mental, spiritual and social well-being. They promote, protect and preserve the health. Support capacity building approaches focused on client strengths and client participation. Advocate and engages in political action and healthy public policy options to facilitate healthy living. Work at a right level of autonomy and practice with emphasis on teamwork, collaboration and professional relationship. Nurses are registered nurses (baccalaureate degree in nursing). Community health nurses view health as a resource for everyday living.

Q: Who creates a care plan for clients in the community?

A: **Registered Nursing Supervisors** will meet with client to conduct a complete assessment of their needs. He or she plays the lead role in developing individualized care plan (in collaboration with client) and will prepare recommendations on their behalf for additional resources that client may require depending on their needs. **Registered Nurses, Registered Practical Nurses and Personal Support Workers** are the backbone of outcome-based care philosophy in community nursing. They require to have the clinical knowledge and specialized expertise that matches clients required level of care, to ensure clients health care needs are met with every visit, ensuring overall well-being of the client and their families

Q: In what community settings do community nurses work?

A: Community health nurses practice in health centers, homes, schools and other community based settings. They provide, coordinate and facilitate direct care and link people to community resources depending on client's needs. The practice of community health nursing combines nursing theory and knowledge, social science and public health science with primary health care.

Q: Which are the areas of practice for Community health nursing in Canada?

A: There are a nurses working in home health and nurse working in public health. The first one (nurses working in home health care) combines knowledge from primary health care, nursing science and social sciences. Focus on prevention, health restoration and palliation. Provides care in the clients home, school or workplace. Registered Nurses and Registered Practical Nurses are preferred with good standing of a professional regulatory body.

Nurse working in public health must have one knowledge more than home health nurses, public health science beside knowledge .They practices in increasingly diverse settings such as community health centres, street clinics, youth centers, nursing outposts to meet the health needs of specific populations. A baccalaureate degree in nursing is preferred and is a member in good standing of a professional regulatory body for registered nurses.

Q: Can you describe what kind of different knowledge community nurses must combine in their practice?

A: Thank you for your question. Knowledge is very important for every segment of nursing practice and also in community nursing plays a important, essential rule. Community health nurses integrate multiple types of knowledge in their practice. **Aesthetics** - the art of nursing which means adapting knowledge and practice to particular rather than universal circumstances. Promotes individual creativity and style contributes to the transformative power of community health nursing. **Empirics** – the science of community health nursing, research, epidemiology. Empirical knowledge is generated and tested by scientific research. **Personal knowledge**- the most fundamental way of knowing. It involves continuous learning through reflective practice. **Ethics** – moral knowledge and at the end socio-political knowledge. Each way of knowing is necessary to understand the complexity and diversity of nursing in the community.

Q: Who pays for community care?

A: Community health nursing in Canada usually is funded by government resources and influence by government policies. Also community care can be founded thru extended private health insurance or by a third party involved in care.

Q: Do you have a Nurses association for community nursing?

A: We have Community Health Nurses Association of Canada (CHNAC), voluntary national association of community health nurses structured as a federation of participating provincial and territorial community health nursing interest groups.

CHNAC led the development of national practice standards for community health nursing.

Q: Standards in community health nursing practice, can you tell us something about that?

A: The Community Health Nursing Standards of Practice (CHNSoP) represent a vision for excellence in community health nursing.

Community health nurses are expected to know and use the following standards of practice: promoting health, building individual and community capacity, building relationship, facilitating access and equity, demonstrating professional responsibility and accountability. The professional accountability includes striving for excellence, ensuring that their knowledge is evidence – based and current.

Q: What and how important is community care and do we need it?

A: All of us in some way or other needed community care, for ourselves or our loved ones.

Day when we have a small incision on our body, day when we bring home our „bundle of joy“, day when we receive a chronic diagnosis or our grandparents can't take care of themselves- we wait and hope that community health nurses will be there, together with hope of recovery, healing, rehabilitation , comfortable passing with dignity.

Community Nurses team makes a difference in clients life.

Who are community health nurses shines thru their profession-credentials, legislations and conducts just steer us towards excellency in care allowing them to walk a mile „in the shoes“ of clients, understanding their needs and being able to address it.

My answer is: Community health nurses are very important!