FORWARD

I am pleased to present to you the 2011 revision of the Community Health Nursing Administration Manual. The manual is the result of many years of vision and countless hours of hard work.

Nunavut has never undergone a comprehensive review and revision of its nursing policies. Most of our present policy manuals were inherited at division from the GNWT and have not been updated in more than a decade.

Since many of our written policies were no longer current, two things were occurring:

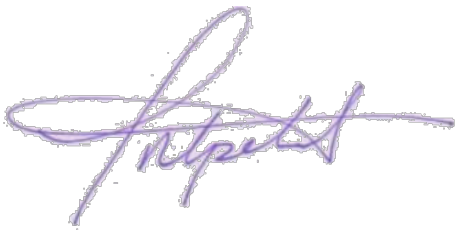
1. Policies did not reflect best practices; so in some cases patients may not have received the most optimal care because the policies and procedures being followed were not current.
2. Policies were being disregarded by nurses because they no longer reflected best practices. However, this meant that nurses working under the GN did not have policies to support their practice.

Neither situation was satisfactory. So, in March 2009, the Executive Management Committee of the Department of Health and Social Services commissioned a total review and revision of policies for Community Health Nursing by the Office of the Chief Nursing Officer.

This project has been a massive undertaking. It has been demanding and difficult. This project has been an incredible labour (of love and frustration) for many people. It is now exciting to see the fruits of our labour. It turned into a far larger product than anyone originally anticipated. As it reaches fruition, we are thankful and indebted to many, many hardworking people who have contributed thousands of hours to this project. Most of all, we are thankful for every nurse who provides dedicated and tireless service to the health of Nunavummiut. It is our hope that our new and updated policies, standards and best practices will equip you with the tools required to deliver the best nursing care possible within the territory.

The policy manuals are dynamic and fluid documents. They reflect the best practices today. As best practices develop and change, the policies contained in our manuals will change to remain current. Amazingly, all of this effort is just a first step in a best practices quality assurance project.

Thank you for your continuous support and dedication to your profession.



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Nunavut

Organization of Manual

The policies and guidelines in this manual are organized into the following categories:

Section 1: Introduction
Section 2: Organization
Section 3: Definitions and Abbreviations
Section 4: Standards
Section 5: Administration
Section 6: Communication
Section 7: Nursing Practice
Section 8: Diagnostics
Section 9: Pharmacy
Section 10: Infection Control
Section 11: Clinical Procedures

Each entry is identified with the following numerical format:

Section – Policy Number – Appendices to that policy

(Appendices include Guidelines, Reference Sheets, Procedures, and Templates)

NOTE TO THE READER: For the purpose of this manual, the term "Nurse" and "Registered Nurse" shall refer to all nurses who are working in the positions of Community Health Nurse and Supervisor of Health Programs, unless otherwise stated.

Nunavut

Section 1: Introduction

Section 2: Organization

Policy 02-001-00……Philosophy of Nursing

Policy 02-002-00……Core Community Health Nursing Programs

Policy 02-003-00……Structural Objectives and Indicators

Section 3: Definitions and Abbreviations

Reference Sheet 03-001-00……..Definition of Terms

Reference Sheet 03-002-00……...Common Government of Nunavut Acronyms

Reference Sheet 03-003-00……..Common Abbreviations

Section 4: Standards

Policy 04-001-00……..Standards for Nursing Administration Practice

04-001-01……Standards of Practice for Nursing Administration

Policy 04-002-00……..Standards for Monitoring & Evaluating Community Health Nursing

04-002-01……Guidelines for Conducting a Community Visit

Policy 04-003-00……Health Centre Chart Audit

04-003-01……Conducting a Health Centre Chart Audit

04-003-02……Health Centre Chart Audit Form

Section 5: Administration

Policy 05-001-00……Nursing Policy Manual Maintenance

05-001-01……Nursing Policy Manual Maintenance guidelines

05-001-02……Nursing Policy Change Request Form

Nunavut

05-001-03……Nursing Policy Development

05-001-04……Archiving Nursing Policies and Guidelines

Policy 05-002-00……Removed

05-002-01……....Removed

Policy 05-003-00……Removed

05-003-01……Removed

Policy 05-004-00……....Removed

05-004-01……Removed

05-004-02……Removed

05-004-03……Removed

05-004-04……Removed

Policy 05-005-00……Critical Incident Stress Management

05-005-01……Critical Incident Stress Management Guidelines

Policy 05-006-00……Nursing Practice – Employer Responsibilities

Policy 05-007-00……Nursing Practice – Employee Responsibilities

Policy 05-008-00……Nursing Practice – Additional Nursing Function

05-008-01……Developing Policy for Additional Nursing Functions

05-008-02……Performing Additional Nursing Functions

05-008-03……Decision-Making Model for Performing Additional Nursing Functions & Transferred Functions

Policy 05-009-00……Transferred Functions

05-009-01……Policy Guidelines for Transferred Functions

05-009-02……Parameters for Performing Transferred Functions

Policy 05-010-00……Competency for Transferred Functions

Policy 05-011-00……Reduction of Core Community Health Nursing Services

05-011-01……Guidelines for Reducing Community Health Nursing Services

Policy 05-012-00……Suspension of Core Community Health Nursing Services

05-012-01……Guidelines for Suspending Community Health Nursing Services

05-012-02……Procedure for Suspending Core Community Health Nursing Services

Policy 05-013-00……Orientation

Policy 05-014-00……Reference Materials

05-014-01……Approved Reference List

05-014-02……Pharmacy Resources

Policy 05-015-00……Statutes and Legislation

05-015-01……Reference Sheet

Policy 05-016-00……Provision of Care in Emergency Situations

Policy 05-017-00……Equipment Management System

Policy 05-018-00……Standard Emergency Equipment

Policy 05-019-00……Equipment – Basic Nursing

05-019-01……Basic Nursing Equipment

Policy 05-020-00……Equipment – Advanced Nursing

05-020-01……Advanced Nursing Equipment

Policy 05-021-00……Occupational Health and Safety

05-021-01……Occupational Health and Safety Program

Policy 05-022-00……Smoke Free Workplace

Policy 05-023-00……Treating Immediate Family Members

Policy 05-024-00……Clients in Police Custody

05-024-01……Provision of Care to Clients in Police Custody

Policy 05-025-00……Gifts

05-025-01……Guidelines for Accepting Gifts

Policy 05-026-00……Loss or Theft of Property

Policy 05-027-00……Contacting Clients through Local Radio

Policy 05-028-00……Scent-Free Workplace

Policy 05-029-00……Violence in the Workplace

Policy 05-030-00……Motor Vehicles

Policy 05-031-00……Fire Response and Evacuation

Policy 05-032-00……Compressed Gas

05-032-01……Compressed Gas Guidelines

Policy 05-033-00……Managing Nursing Practice and Professional Conduct

Policy 05-034-00……Client Safety Events – Reporting and Management

Policy 05-035-00……Client Safety Disclosure Policy

Section 6: Communications

Policy 06-001-00……..Confidentiality

06-001-01……Confidentiality Guidelines

Policy 06-002-00……..Transmission of Health Information by Facsimile

06-002-01……Guidelines for Transmitting Information by Facsimile

Policy 06-003-00……..Release of Information

06-003-01……..Guidelines for the Release of Information

Policy 06-004-00……..Intra-Departmental Release of Information

06-004-01……Intra-Departmental Guidelines for the Release of Information

Policy 06-005-00……..RCMP Investigations

06-005-01……Guidelines for RCMP Investigations

Policy 06-006-00……..Health Records Management

Policy 06-007-00……..Health Record Control

Policy 06-008-00……..Documentation Standards

06-008-01……Documentation Standard Guidelines

Policy 06-009-00……..Documentation Format

06-009-01……SOAP Documentation Guidelines

Policy 06-010-00……..Date and Time Sequence

Policy 06-011-00……..Email Consultation

Policy 06-012-00……..Forms Management

Policy 06-013-00……..Interpreter Services

06-013-01……Interpreter Services Guidelines

06-013-02……Strategies working with Interpreters

Policy 06-014-00……Telephone Communication

06-014-01……Telephone Communication for Receptionists & Clerk Interpreters

06-014-02……Front desk triage

Policy 06-015-00……Missed or cancelled appointments

06-015-01……Guidelines for handling missed or cancelled Appointments

Policy 06-016-00……Child Welfare

06-016-01……Reporting Child Welfare Concerns

Section 7: Nursing Practice

Policy 07-001-00……Community Health Nursing

Policy 07-002-00……Basic Nursing Procedures

Policy 07-003-00……Nursing Skills Certification

07-003-01……Skills Recommended for Certification

Policy 07-004-00……Chief Medical Officer of Health

Policy 07-005-00……Immunizations

Policy 07-006-00……Removed

Policy 07-007-00……Removed

07-007-01……Removed

07-007-02……Removed

Policy 07-008-00……Removed

Policy 07-009-00……Unregulated healthcare workers – Employer

Responsibilities

Policy 07-010-00……Unregulated healthcare workers – Nurse's Responsibilities

07-010-01……Guidelines for Working with Unregulated Healthcare Workers

07-010-02……Deciding to Teach or Delegate a Procedure

Policy 07-011-00……Unregulated Healthcare Workers – Workers Responsibilities

Policy 07-012-00……Certification of Death

Policy 07-013-00……Pronouncing Death

07-013-01……Guidelines to Pronouncing Death

07-013-02……Post Mortem Responsibilities

Policy 07-014-00……Reporting a Death to the Coroner

07-014-01……Coroner's Forms

Policy 07-015-00……Stillbirth

07-015-01……Guidelines for Handling a Stillbirth

07-015-02……Examination Guidelines for a Stillbirth

Policy 07-016-00……Advance Directives

07-016-01……Nunavut Care Level Planning Form

Policy 07-017-00……Do Not Resuscitate Order

Policy 07-018-00……Client Identification for Clinical Care

07-018-01……Client Identification Strategies

Policy 07-019-00……Transfer of Care between Colleagues

Policy 07-020-00……Conscious Sedation

07-020-01……Conscious Sedation guidelines

07-020-02……Sedation – Physical Status Classification

07-020-03……Conscious Sedation Record

Policy 07-021-00……Restraints

Policy 07-022-00……Clients on Continuous Observation

07-022-01……Provisions of Care for Clients on Continuous Observation

07-022-02……Provisions of Care for Clients on Continuous Observation – Unregulated Healthcare Workers

Policy 07-023-00……Non-urgent Evacuation of Obstetrical Clients

07-023-01……Obstetrical Clients Refusing to Travel

Policy 07-024-00……Home Visits - Planned

07-024-01……Guidelines for Planned Home Visits

07-024-02……Guidelines for Safe Home Visits

Policy 07-025-00……Home Visits – Unplanned and Urgent

07-025-01……Guidelines for Unplanned and Urgent Home Visits

Policy 07-026-00……Emergency Land Medivacs

07-026-01……Guidelines for Emergency Land Medivacs

Policy 07-027-00……Certificates of Illness

Policy 07-028-00……LPN Medical Directive: TB Program

Policy 07-029-00……Infant-Telephone Triage and Infant Assessment (Age 0-12 Months)

Policy 07-030-00……Pediatric and Adult-Telephone Triage

Policy 07-031-00……CHN Expanded Role: Diagnosing, initiating lab and x-ray tests and initiating drug treatment

Policy 07-032-00 ……Testing, Diagnosing, and Treating Syphilis Infections for

Section 8: Diagnostics

Policy 08-001-00……Laboratory Procedures

08-001-01……Collecting Sexual Assault Kits

Policy 08-002-00……Requisitioning Laboratory Studies

Policy 08-003-00……Interpretation of Laboratory Studies

Policy 08-004-00……Post Mortem Samples

08-004-01……Guidelines for Obtaining Post Mortem Samples

08-004-02……Coroner protocol for obtaining fluids

Policy 08-005-00……Acknowledgement of Diagnostic Test Results

08-005-01……Guidelines for Acknowledging Diagnostic Test Results

Policy 08-006-00……Follow-up of Abnormal Diagnostic test results

08-006-01…… .Guidelines for Following up Abnormal Results

Policy 08-007-00…… Removed

08-007-01……Removed

Policy 08-008-00……Removed

08-008-01……Removed

08-008-02……Removed

08-008-03……Removed

08-008-04……Removed

Policy 08-009-00……Radiological Examination of Pregnant Women

08-009-01……Guidelines for Radiological Examination of Pregnant Women

Policy 08-010-00……Interpretation of X-Rays

Policy 08-011-00……Removed

Policy 08-012-00……Diagnostic Records

08-012-01……Guidelines for Filing Diagnostic Records

Policy 08-013-00……Removed

Policy 08-014-00……Preventative Maintenance and Calibration

Policy 08-015-00……Interpretation of ECGs

Policy 08-016-00……Venipuncture

08-016-01……Venipuncture for Blood Specimens

08-016-02……Venipuncture for Blood Cultures

Policy 08-017-00……Unregulated Healthcare Workers Performing Laboratory Procedure

Policy 08-018-00……Performing X-Rays – CHN, NP, BRT

Policy 08-019-00……CHN Initiated X-Ray Requests

Policy 08-020-00……Troponin Point of Care Tests in Pediatric Patients

Section 9: Pharmacy

Policy 09-001-00……Documentation of Allergies

Policy 09-002-00……RN Initiated Drug Therapy

Policy 09-003-00……Stock Medications

Policy 09-004-00……Medication Administration – Nursing Practice

09-004-01……..Guidelines for Administering Medications

Policy 09-005-00……Dispensing Medications

Policy 09-006-00……Administering or Dispensing Pharmaceuticals – Documentation

Policy 09-007-00……Administering Medications – IM Injection

09-007-01……Guidelines for Administering IM Injections

Policy 09-008-00……Administering Medications – IV Direct

09-008-01……Guidelines for Administering Medications IV Direct

Policy 09-009-00……Administering Medications via Subcutaneous Infusion Set

09-009-01……Guidelines for Administering Medications via Subcutaneous infusion Set

Policy 09-010-00……Repackaging Pharmaceuticals

09-010-01……Repackaging Pharmaceuticals– Container Specification Guidelines

Policy 09-011-00……Labeling Pharmaceutical Agents

Policy 09-012-00……Controlled Substances

Policy 09-013-00……Audit of Controlled Substances

Policy 09-014-00……Acquiring Blood and Blood Components

Policy 09-015-00……Administering Blood and Blood Components

09-015-01……Guidelines for Administering Blood Products

09-015-02……Guidelines for Using a Pressure Device in Blood Transfusions

Policy 09-016-00……Suspected Adverse Reaction to a Transfusion

Policy 09-017-00……Compounding of Medications

Policy 09-018-00……Bronchiolitis Management Protocol

Section 10: Infection Control

Policy 10-001-00……Communicable Disease

10-001-01……Reportable Communicable Diseases

Policy 10-002-00……Universal Precautions

10-002-01……Universal Precaution Guidelines

Policy 10-003-00……Infection Control

10-003-01……Infection Control Guidelines

10-003-02……Airborne Precautions

10-003-03……Droplet Precautions

10-003-04……Contact Precautions

10-003-05……Precautionary Measures for Microorganisms

Policy 10-004-00…… Hand Hygiene

10-004-01……Hand Hygiene Guidelines

Policy 10-005-00…… Personal Protective Equipment

10-005-01……Guidelines for the Use of Personal Protective Equipment

Policy 10-006-00……Housekeeping

10-006-01……Housekeeping Guidelines

10-006-02……Infectious Waste Disposal Guidelines

10-006-03……Guidelines for Communicating Hazards

Policy 10-007-00……Handling of Used Equipment and Supplies

10-007-01……Guidelines for Handling Used Equipment and Instruments

Policy 10-008-00……Clean, Disinfect and Sterilize

10-008-01……Guidelines to Clean, Disinfect and Sterilize

10-008-02……Cleaning, Disinfecting & Sterilizing Equipment

10-008-03……Levels of Disinfectants

10-008-04……Directions for Preparing and Using Chlorine-based Disinfectants

Policy 10-009-00……Sharps

10-009-01……Safe Handling and Disposal of Sharps

Section 11: Clinical Procedures

Policy 11-001-00……Central Venous Access Device: Care & Maintenance

11-001-01……Care of PICC Lines

11-001-02……Central Venous Access Device: Heparin Flush

Policy 11-002-00……PICC Removal

11-002-01……PICC Removal Procedure

Policy 11-003-00……Central Venous Access Implanted Ports: Accessing and Discontinuing Infusion

11-003-01……Central Venous Access Implanted Ports: Nursing

Considerations
11-003-02……..Implanted Port: Access
11-003-03……..Implanted Port: De-Access
11-003-04……..Implanted Port: Changing Injection Caps
11-003-05……..Implanted Port: Discontinuing an IV Infusion
11-003-06……..Heparin Flush & Heparin Lock for Implanted Port
Policy 11-004-00……Central Venous Access Device: Blood Procurement
11-004-01……Central Venous Access Device: Blood Procurement: Nursing Procedures
Policy 11-005-00……Therapeutic Phlebotomy
11-005-01……Therapeutic Phlebotomy: Nursing Considerations
Policy 11-006-00……..Enteral Nutrition
11-006-01……Enteral Nutrition: Nursing Considerations
11-006-02……Enteral Nutrition: Care for Feeding Tubes
11-006-03……pH Testing
11-006-04……Frequency of Tube Placement Verification
11-006-05……Interpreting Appearance and pH Results of Aspirate
11-006-06……Medications Affecting Gastric pH
Policy 11-007-00……Nasogastric Drainage Tube
11-007-01……Nasogastric Tube: Nursing Considerations
11-007-02……Nasogastric Tube: Insertion and Maintenance
Policy 11-008-00……Topical Hemostatic Agents

11-008-01……Application of Hemostatic Agents

Policy 11-009-00……Anesthesia: Topical, Local & Digital Nerve Block

11-009-01……Application of Topical & Local Anesthesia

Policy 11-010-00……Suturing

11-010-01……Basic Suturing Principles

11-010-02……Suturing Simple Lacerations

Policy 11-011-00……Wound Closure: Skin Adhesive

11-011-01……Apply Skin Adhesive

Policy 11-012-00……Cerumen Removal

11-012-01……Cerumen Removal: Nursing Considerations

Policy 11-013-00……Measuring Intra-Ocular Pressures

11-013-01……Measuring Intra-Ocular Pressures: Tono-pen

Policy 11-014-00……PAP Smear

11-014-01……Performing a Pap Smear

Policy 11-015-00……Wet Mount

11-015-01……Collecting a Wet Mount Specimen

11-015-02……Interpreting a Wet Mount

Policy 11-016-00……Episiotomy

Policy 11-017-00……Plaster Splinting

11-017-01……General Plaster Splinting

11-017-02……Short Arm Splinting

11-017-03……Long Arm Splinting

11-017-04…….Short Leg Splinting

11-017-05…….Long Leg Splinting

11-017-06…….Sugar Tong Splinting

11-017-07…….Thumb Spica Splinting

11-017-08…….Ulnar Gutter Splinting