

Competency Assurance

Expanded Scope of Practice nursing in First Nations and Inuit communities requires a unique body of knowledge with distinct expertise. A Community Health Nurse in this setting works with clients, families, community groups, and other health care professionals to achieve and maintain optimal health as an integral part of well-being. This Competency Assessment Program was designed to provide competency assurance to the public through appropriate professional background, education, and assessment.

Self-Study Guide

If you have not completed a recognized education program in Clinical Skills and/or Community Health Nursing, the Self-Study Guide will help you to facilitate meeting your personal learning needs.

The guide contains examples of bibliographic resources for the competencies evaluated in the Competency Assessment Program. These resources include current texts that contain information related directly to the skills and knowledge required of the Community Health Nurse working in First Nations and Inuit communities.

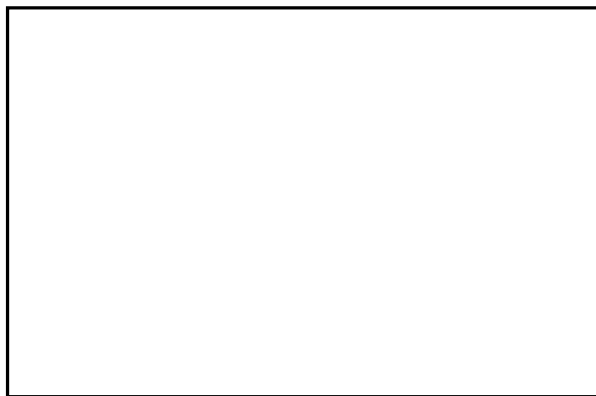
Where to Find Information on the Web?

Additional information about the Competency Assessment Program for Expanded Scope of Practice Nurses Working with First Nations and Inuit Health Branch is posted on the Health Canada website:

www.hc-sc.gc.ca/msb/fnihp

How to Reach Us?

For more information on the Competency Assessment Program and obtaining the Self-Study Guide and Application Guide, you can contact your Nursing Manager.



Competency Assessment Program for Community Health Nurses Working with First Nations and Inuit Health Branch

Part I **Self-Assessment Tools**

*Assuring nursing competencies
in First Nations and Inuit
communities ...*

... by your commitment to continued nursing competence ...

What is the Competency Assessment Program?

The First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) of Health Canada has developed and produced a multi-stage Competency Assessment Program for Community Health Nurses working in First Nations and Inuit communities. The assessment is composed of Part I: Self-Assessment, Part II: Multiple-Choice Examinations, and Part III: Clinical Skills Assessment for Expanded Scope of Practice. See information pamphlet for more details.

What are the Benefits of Participating?

The Competency Assessment Program allows you to build on the solid foundation of entry to practice through your Canadian RN registration. It is a commitment to the leading edge of national health care standards for Community Health Nurses working in First Nations and Inuit communities.

Participating in this competency assessment helps you stay current by evaluating your specialized knowledge and skills.

What is Part I Self-Assessment?

The Self-Assessment tool is for your own use. It is not a performance appraisal and cannot be used as such. This Self-Assessment is an effective means to understanding the wide range of knowledge, skills, and abilities (called competencies) that are required by the Community Health Nurse who is beginning practice in a First Nations or Inuit community.

A similar assessment is conducted by a preceptor (e.g., supervisor, nurse-in-charge, or mentor) and is intended to support the nurse's self-assessment.

Together the nurse and preceptor generate a learning plan that identifies those competencies needing further development, and plan strategies to meet those learning needs. The nursing scope of practice may be limited until the learning needs are met.

The Self-Assessment is NOT designed to replace the requirement to complete recognized education in clinical skills and community health nursing.

Who Should Participate in Part I?

All Community Health Nurses newly employed by the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch are required to participate in Part I: Self-Assessment.

In addition, Community Health Nurses employed by First Nations and Inuit Health Authorities may choose to participate.

When Should You Participate in Part I?

The Self-Assessment should be completed within the first month of your arrival in the Community Health or Treatment setting.

The preceptor's assessment should also be completed at the same time.

... and a commitment to excellence in health care.