

## 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 a 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](http://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 II Multiple-Choice Examinations**

**&**

### **Part III Clinical Skills Assessment for Expanded Scope of Practice**

*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.

## **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 will help you stay current by evaluating your specialized knowledge and skills, and identify continuing educational needs.

All successful candidates will receive a certificate to recognize their accomplishments upon completion of Part II and/or Part III of the Competency Assessment Program.

## **What is Part II Multiple-Choice Examinations?**

The Multiple-Choice Examinations were developed to evaluate the knowledge and critical thinking skills demanded of Community Health Nurses who are working in First Nations and Inuit communities and have completed a recognized program.

The Multiple-Choice Examinations cover two distinct areas: (a) Community Health Nursing and (b) Treatment Nursing. Nurses will write the exam or exams related to their scopes of practice. Community Health Nurses will write exam (a) and Community Health Nurses with a focus in Expanded Scope of Practice will write exam (a) and (b).

## **What is Part III Clinical Skills Assessment for Expanded Scope of Practice?**

This assessment involves a nurse participant completing several simulated nursing treatment situations to demonstrate the clinical skills needed in their work as Community Health Nurses with a focus in Expanded Scope of Practice.

## **When Can You Participate in Part II & III?**

Part II & III of the FNIHB Competency Assessment Program will be offered twice a year. To participate in the assessment you should discuss the application process with your preceptor / supervisor and complete the required application form.

## **Who is Required to Participate in Part II & III?**

- All First Nations and Inuit Health Branch and First Nations and Inuit Health Authority nurses who graduated from a FNIHB recognized community health nursing program and/or clinical skills program\* since 1997 in order to provide feedback to educational programs.

## **Who is Eligible to Participate in Part II & III?**

- All First Nations and Inuit Health Branch employed nurses who graduated from other recognized programs\* have the option to write during the transition period of 2001.
- All nurses employed in First Nations and Inuit communities who have graduated from a FNIHB recognized community health nursing program and/or clinical skills program\*.

\* For a list of programs contact your nursing supervisor.

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