



## IDENTIFICATION

Department	Position Title	
Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority	Community Health Nurse (CHN)	
Position Number(s)	Community	Division/Region(s)
57-95104	Fort Resolution	Clinic Services/Yellowknife

## PURPOSE OF THE POSITION

To provide community health services in Fort Resolution in accordance with established standards of nursing practice and the philosophy and objectives of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) to ensure the provision of safe standardized health care to the residents of Fort Resolution.

## SCOPE

The Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) administers all public health, home Care and general physician services throughout Yellowknife, Dettah and N'Dilo, as well as all regional health and social services delivered in Fort Resolution and Lutsel K'e. The NTHSSA provides and supports the delivery of community based health care services to adults and children in order to enhance the health and well-being of communities through excellence, accountability and respect for regional diversity.

Located within the Fort Resolution Health Centre and reporting directly to the Nurse in Charge (NIC) the incumbent and the NIC deliver community health services to a client population of approximately 500+ residents. The Health Centre is the sole medical facility in the community.

Community Health Services include providing non-emergency medical care; responding to medical emergencies that require decision making outside of the usual policies, procedures and standards of nursing care; and delivering nursing programs designed to promote community health and well-being (i.e. including but not limited to Well-Child/Woman/Man clinics, pre and post-natal clinics, school health program, chronic disease clinic, immunization programs, communicable disease surveillance and treatment, etc.). The provision of critical

incident services is supported by the local NIC and/or by a physician over the telephone when communications links are available.

Services may be provided within the Health Centre, community halls, schools and in a patient's home (i.e. elderly population) and are intended to promote a healthy way of life, and decrease the incidence of death and disease. Services may be provided on an individual basis or as part of a multi-disciplinary team.

Within the Fort Resolution Health Centre the CHNs and the NIC will be required to provide on-call coverage on a rotational basis during the evening and weekends to provide emergency nursing care.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 1. Provide comprehensive community health programs (i.e. including but not limited to Well-Child/Woman/Man clinics, pre and post-natal clinics, school health program, chronic disease clinic, immunization programs, communicable disease surveillance and treatment) according to the GNWT Health Standards in order to protect, prevent and reduce the incidence of communicable disease, to promote a healthy life style and to reduce the incidence of disability and/or death to all community members.**
  - Deliver a wide variety of community health clinics (both pre-packaged and requiring development by the incumbent to fit community needs),
  - Assist in the arranging of, and participate in specialty clinics with physician specialists or other health care providers (i.e. Ophthalmic Technologists, Dental Therapists, etc.),
  - Evaluate community health programs on a continuing basis and modify programs for appropriateness,
  - Act as a resource for other community based health care workers (CHR, Lay Dispensers, Home Support Workers, etc.), and
  - Promote a safe and healthy environment in homes, schools and throughout the community.
- 2. Provide direct nursing care to patients/clients using a problem solving approach and in accordance with the standards, guidelines and scope of expanded nursing practice to facilitate care of patients.**
  - Assess, plan, implement, document and evaluate care to ensure a coordinated holistic approach which best meets the needs of the patient (assessments may involve taking x-rays of extremities and/or lungs in order to make appropriate diagnosis),
  - Coordinate the admission and transfer (including medivac) of patients based on the identification of abnormal findings, critical nature of a patient and consultation with the NIC, Physician in Yellowknife or other health care providers to ensure the patient receives appropriate care,
  - Maintain client and administrative records following professional and legal guidelines in a confidential, concise and accurate manner,

- Assist patients to achieve their optimum level of health in situation of normal health, illness, injury, or through the process of dying
- Advocate the dignity and self-respect of patients,
- Promote the autonomy of patients and help them to express their health needs and values to obtain appropriate information and services,
- Safeguard the trust of patients that information learned in the context of a professional relationship is shared outside the health care team only with the patient's permission or as legally required,
- Apply and promote principles of equity and fairness to assist patients in receiving unbiased treatment and a share of health services and resources proportionate to their needs,
- Package and transport biological samples and pharmaceutical materials, and
- Act in a manner consistent with their professional code of ethics, responsibilities and standards of practice.

**3. Facilitate, implement and modify patient and family educational/teaching based on the needs of the patient.**

- Use a holistic approach to facilitate individual learning of patients and their families in relation to patient illness or injury (i.e. self-care, health promotion, etc.),
- Assess the patient for physical and psychological needs, their knowledge of their health, disease process and learning needs, and
- Develop, revise and evaluate on an ongoing basis, educational resources necessary to support patients.

**4. Advocate practice environments that have the organization and resource allocations necessary for safe, competent and ethical nursing care.**

- Provide coaching and leadership to peers, students and other members of the health care team to develop skill levels necessary to achieve the standard of care,
- Collaborate with nurses, peers and other members of the health care team to advocate health care environments that are conducive to ethical practice and to the health and well-being of patients and staff, and
- Participates in research (i.e. flu watch), special projects (new immunization programs) and monthly interagency meetings to plan, implement and evaluate joint projects related to the community's health status.

## **WORKING CONDITIONS**

*(Working Conditions identify the **unusual and unavoidable**, externally imposed conditions under which the work must be performed and which create hardship for the incumbent.)*

### **Physical Demands**

From time to time (1-2 times per week at 10 minutes per incident) the incumbent will be required to lift, carry or support patients during the provision of patient care. This includes

incapacitated patients within the Health Centre and emergency patients coming to the Health Centre.

### **Environmental Conditions**

For entire shifts the incumbent will have moderate levels of exposure to communicable diseases (i.e. TB), blood (i.e. drawn from patients in sick clinic and during the processing of body fluids for transportation to the IRH Laboratory), body fluid and hazardous materials (sharps, toxic cleaning and sterilizing solutions) that can result in potential health risks to the incumbent.

As a result of living in an isolated, northern community, the incumbent may be required to travel on small planes and on ice or winter roads when traveling to or from the community.

### **Sensory Demands**

The incumbent will be required to use the combined senses of touch, sight, smell and hearing during on-going assessment and continuous observation of patients within the Health Care Centre,

### **Mental Demands**

The CHN experiences constant demands from residents within the community who may require nursing care at any time (day or night), which may cause a significant disruption to the incumbent's family and social life. In addition, the incumbent is also subject to disruption in lifestyle due to 15+ day's on-call per month. It is normal for the individual on standby to be called back into work (almost every day), which causes significant stress on the incumbent's family and social life.

In addition, within the health care setting there can be significant lack of control over the work pace, with frequent interruptions (work is often dictated by external factors) that may lead to mental fatigue or stress.

From time to time Community Health Centres may be required to provide nursing services to abusive patients, individuals under the influence of drugs or alcohol and RCMP escorts. The CHN may be kicked, pushed, grabbed or verbally assaulted. These incidents may occur while the incumbent is on duty as well as when off duty (within a small community it is difficult to separate the individual from the position) As a result, there is a very real concern for safety and well-being which may cause extreme levels of stress on the incumbent both during and after working hours.

### **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES**

- The CHN must have a working knowledge of and an ability to apply and assess the nursing process (assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation) and current nursing practice (including public health) to ensure that the patients' physical, emotional, psychosocial, spiritual and educational needs are met.

- Knowledge of biological, physical and behavioral sciences in order to recognize, interpret and prioritize findings and determine and implement a plan of action based on accepted standards of practice.
- The CHN must have an ability to provide emergency care and treatment as the position is required to perform transferred medical functions beyond normal hospital training. This includes and ability to perform advanced nursing functions such as but not limited to: suturing, venipuncture for all age groups and immunization techniques.
- A knowledge of and an ability to apply sanctioned transferable medical functions as outlined in the Nursing Administration Manual's standards, policies and guidelines (i.e. pap smears).
- An ability to legally operate a motor vehicle in order to drive to and from client's homes.
- An ability to operate and/or use standard medical equipment (such as but not limited to - ECG, peripheral IV pumps and lines, stretchers, thermometers, NG tubes, sphygmomanometer, blood glucose monitors, suction tubes, sharps, pulse oximeter, etc.)
- An understanding of and an ability to perform basic laboratory functions such as but not limited to: ESR, WBC, HGB, blood smears, pregnancy tests, microscopic exam of specimens, various swab specimens, the preparation of specimens for culture and sensitivity, ECGs and quality control of laboratory machinery.
- An ability to perform radiological examinations (X-rays) of the chest and extremities.
- An ability to remove casts or splints.
- Knowledge of and ability to operate word processing applications (i.e. Microsoft Word) in order to complete training materials and presentations, electronic mail to send and receive mail and the internet in order to conduct on-line research.
- An ability to educate patients and their families (where applicable) on appropriate self-care methods and techniques.
- Knowledge of and an ability to network resources within and outside the DCHSSB (i.e. Social Services, Public Health, medivac teams etc.) in order to ensure support of patients and their families.
- The incumbent must be aware of the importance of confidentiality and be able to keep personal and medical information private and confidential at all times,

**Typically, the above qualifications would be attained by:**

This level of knowledge is commonly acquired through the successful completion of a Nursing Degree, 2 years recent nursing experience in an acute care setting or within a northern health center.

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

**Yellowknife Region Requirements**

Within the Yellowknife Region health care providers must be able to acquire within a reasonable time frame and remain current with the following training and certifications:

- WHMIS,
- Fire training, and
- Certification in basic CPR.

Within a NTHSSA Community Health Centres nurses must be able to acquire and remain current with the following training:

- Transportation of Dangerous Goods,
- Standard X-ray processing (chest and extremities),
- Pharmaceutical process and procedures, and
- General laboratory functions.

BTLS and PALS would be an asset.

Training in emergency response would be an asset.

Canadian Nursing Association Certifications are desirable.

A valid class V driver's license is required.

Within the Yellowknife Region nurses must be registered with the NWTRNA and have completed a satisfactory criminal record check.

**Position Security** (check one)

- No criminal records check required
- Position of Trust – criminal records check required
- Highly sensitive position – requires verification of identity and a criminal records check

**French language** (check one)

- French required
- French preferred
- French not required