



The  
**Diocese of Huron**  
Anglican Church of Canada

# Parish Nursing

## **EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:**

Required course through McMaster or Detroit

Current license as a registered nurse is required. Baccalaureate in nursing preferred with a commitment/willingness to enroll in a recognized parish nurse program with an ongoing commitment to learning. Membership in the RNAO and demonstrated coverage of professional liability insurance.

Five years of experience in professional nursing in essential within the last five years or refresher courses. This may include medical/surgical, community/public health; experience in teaching, health counseling and church ministry is highly desirable. Must have demonstrated ability to analyze individual and group needs and be able to supervise individual and group activities. Ability to conduct a spiritual assessment.

## **PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS**

Must possess empathetic personality and be a professed believer in Christian tradition, be psychologically and spiritually mature with special interest and aptitude for pastoral ministry and practice in wholistic health care: be self motivated and self directed. Must have superior interpersonal and communication skills, as well as excellent assessment and problem solving skills with keen understanding of criterion of confidentiality.

## **Major responsibilities**

The parish nurse:

1. Plays a highly visible roll in the life and ministry of the congregation with concentration in the following capacities:

a) Health Educator – teaches or brings in others to lead: courses, seminars and workshops for the congregation on a wide variety of health related topics. Most important of all, integrates faith and health by affirming and supporting the journey towards wholeness in the relationship of body, mind and spirit.

b) Personal health counselor – discusses health problems and makes home, hospital and nursing home visits as necessary.

As counselor the Parish Nurse: develops a professional therapeutic relationship with individuals in the parish.

1) Does assessment of health problems.

2) Refers the person to a physician and/or community support service as needed.

3) Educates individuals in specific ways that they may better care for themselves and communicates good health concepts as a role model.

4) Acts as a resource for families with chronically ill members in their home.

c) Liaison person with the community – acts as a liaison to community resources and services, referring persons

whenever appropriate.

- 1) Participates as a member of the parish team. Attending church services, meetings and making/accepting referrals.
- 2) Provides feedback to the Rector, Parish Council, congregation and Health Council regarding recommendations for change in the Parish Nursing program.
- 3) Maintains records and statistics for program evaluation.
- 4) Assist in the preparation of agendas and materials for monthly health council meeting.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY**

The parish nurse is accountable for developing a plan of health and wholeness in coordination with the health council and pastor and shall report to the congregation at the annual vestry meeting.

- 1) Communication both verbally and in writing with the Pastoral Care Team including.....
- 2) Report to the Rector and Wardens and Parish Health Council.
- 3) Assess, plan develop, implement and evaluate the ministry
- 4) Maintain records and statistics for program evaluation
- 5) Maintain individual health records in a secure confidential environment.
- 6) In conjunction with Health Council, submits annual parish nursing ministry budget.
- 7) Participates in continuing education events to further develop skills as a Parish Nurse.

## **EVALUATION – Performance Development and Performance Management**

Goals and objectives and outcomes for the parish nursing ministry are established annually at the end of the year, outcomes are reviewed. The pastor and wardens with feedback from the parish health council should do this annually. The parish nurse program should be thoroughly evaluated to determine if the position of the parish nurse has been effective in addressing the health and wellness goals of the congregation.