

Nursing Programs

T'it'q'et Health Department has several nurses that are scheduled to work in the community throughout the year, each nurse has specific roles and responsibilities as described

Home Health Nurse (Interior Health)

Home Health nursing practice supports the client's achievement of safe realistic and reasonable goals by assessing, planning, coordinating, organizing, implementing, evaluating and transitioning nursing and other care services for the client. In collaboration with the client, family and other care providers the Home Health Nurse develops, implements and adapts a care plan, delivers direct care, assesses service eligibility and provides care management to help clients manage their own care and navigate through the various services available within the community setting. Works in consultation with other system partners and bases practice on nursing science and related content from other sciences and humanities.

Nursing services MAY include:

- Pain management
- Chronic disease management
- Intravenous care
- Ostomy care
- Post-hospital care
- Wound care
- Palliative care
- Self-care teaching

Services **NOT** provided:

- House cleaning or laundry
- Grocery shopping
- Rehabilitation equipment/aids
- Driving to appointments
- Companions
- Foot care

Community Health Nurse (FNHA)

In October 2013, First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) took on the responsibility for the design and delivery of health programs and services, including Nursing Services, for BC First Nations, formerly delivered by Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch. The programs and services were transferred "as is". A year after taking accountability for health programs and services, FNHA identified a need to perform a review of Nursing Services – its largest "direct patient care" portfolio.

Nursing services are currently provided to First Nations communities in three primary ways:

1. by nurses employed by FNHA;
2. by nurses employed by the community; and/or
3. by nurses employed by regional health authorities (e.g. Interior Health Authority).

The underlying goal of the review is to identify opportunities for enhancing nursing services provided to First Nations people.

Community Health Nurse's (CHN's) provide a comprehensive range of nursing services to First Nation communities. Their practice is grounded in *health promotion and disease prevention* and aims to build the capacity of individual, family and community wellness. Health center CHNs work in partnership with the community to develop and implement relevant, culturally-centered interventions, providing services in clinic, home and community settings.

CHNs in this setting are NOT on call and DO NOT provide emergency services.

Interior Health Nurse Practitioner (NP)

Nurse practitioners (NP) were first regulated in B.C. in 2005. Nurse Practitioner's must meet advanced requirements to register as NPs and use the NP title. These nursing professionals are usually educated in a master's program. The Ministry of Health currently provides funding to assist health authorities with the costs associated with the delivery of nurse practitioner services intended to increase patient access to primary health care.

NPs are registered nurses with advanced knowledge, skills and a Master's degree in Nursing. NPs bring a unique perspective to health services in that they place emphasis on both care and cure. NPs work closely with clients, families and other health professionals to address complex health needs and manage acute and chronic illnesses, with a holistic model of care. They engage communities in the development, implementation and evaluation of health programs and healthy public policy.

What do Nurse Practitioners do?

- Diagnose and treat acute and chronic illnesses, disorders and injuries
- Order X-rays, scans and ultrasounds
- Order and interpret laboratory and other diagnostic tests
- Communicate diagnoses to clients and other health professionals
- Initially prescribe and re-order medications
- Perform specified procedures (invasive/non-invasive)
- Refer clients to other health professionals

To find out more about Nurse Practitioners, visit these websites; <http://www.crnbc.ca> and <http://www.bcnpa.org>

Community Paramedicine

With this initiative, paramedics are providing primary care services within their scope of practice to increase access to basic health-care services in non-urgent settings, in partnership with local health-care providers. The enhanced role is not intended to replace care provided by health professionals, such as nurses, but rather to complement and support the work these important professionals do each day. Tasks include but not limited to chronic disease monitoring, wound care, health monitoring, medication oversight, helping to identify fall hazards in the home and be able to help navigate someone to get the assistance they may need. Patients eligible for this are primarily older adults living with chronic conditions. The local person is Kim Ayers – cell 250-256-3634.