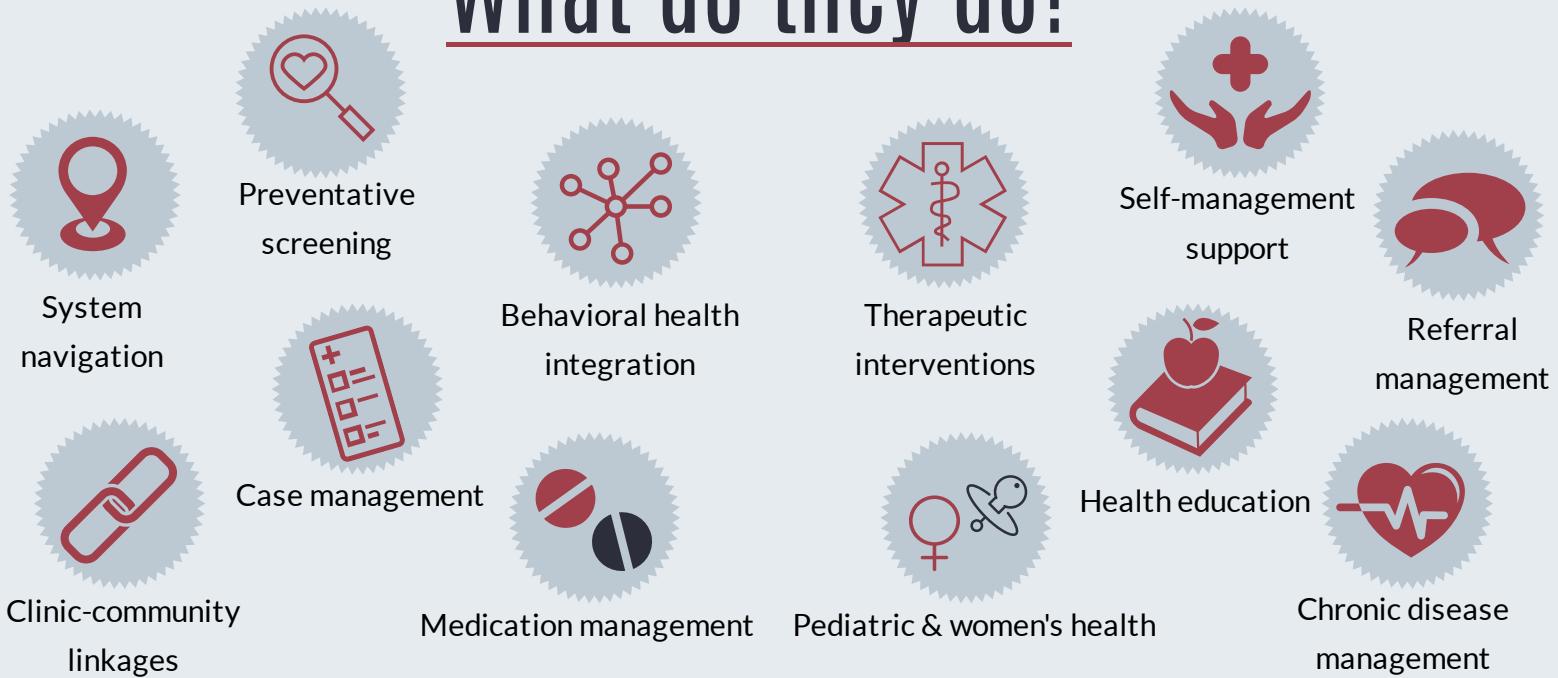


Family Practice Nurses

Registered Nurses who provide care for patients in primary care settings such as family practice offices and health clinics. They have a key role in interprofessional teams working with family physicians, nurse practitioners and other providers.

What do they do?



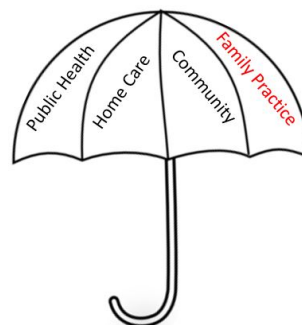
Family practice nurses improve:



Canadian Workforce Data

In 2016, there were **44,609 RNs** in community health settings.

Between 2007 and 2016, the community health RN workforce grew by **11,563**.



Family practice nursing falls under the umbrella of "community health nursing". However, there is a lack of data specific to the family practice nursing workforce.

What do we know about competency development for family practice nurses?

Purpose

To examine international literature and set the groundwork for competency development in Canada.

Methods

Environmental scan, using keywords such as “professional competence”, “family nursing”, “primary care”, “primary healthcare”, and “community health nursing”

Findings

Family practice nursing competencies are being examined internationally, yet ***lag in Canada*** compared to international work

The time has come for competency development.

The role of family practice nurses is poorly understood by other healthcare providers and the public. Competency development has occurred for other primary care professionals, and in some areas of community health nursing (e.g. home care, public health). However, none exist to guide the practice of family practice nurses. This poses a challenge for introduction and integration of the role in primary care.



Benefits of National Competencies

- 1 clarify national understanding of the family practice nurse role
- 2 aide with employee recruitment (e.g. job descriptions, interviews, orientation) and performance evaluation
- 3 inform nursing curricula and continuing education
- 4 support the integration/optimization of RNs within primary care settings

Progress to date...

Initiative is being led collaboratively by the CFPNA¹, CNA² and a pan-Canadian research team

Key stakeholder meeting helped secure plan for competency development (May 2017)

Feedback on initial draft of competencies obtained at CFPNA¹ Biennial Conference (April 2018)

Funding secured through CIHR³ Project Grant (Received Summer 2018)

Completion of competency development anticipated for **Winter 2019**

1. Canadian Family Practice Nurses Association; 2. Canadian Nurses Association; 3. Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Want to learn more?

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