

Nurses

Nurses practice in a variety of settings as direct care-givers, educators, counsellors, advocates, and co-ordinators of care for individuals, families, populations and communities. Nurses primarily work as direct care givers in an interdisciplinary health care team in hospitals, nursing homes, primary health care centers and community settings. Registered Nurses work to promote health, prevent illness, and to assist individuals, populations and communities to deal with health problems. Some specific responsibilities of nurses may include assessing, establishing and implementing a plan of care to address a client or community health situations; managing rapidly changing health situations, administering medications and treatments, operating or monitoring technical equipment; providing health education; providing telehealth; as well as providing the overall coordination of care and the health care team on a 24h/7 basis. Nurses can specialize in a variety of areas including gerontology, emergency, mental health, obstetrics, health promotion, nursing research and with further education and experience become clinical nurse specialists, professors, managers or nurse practitioners to name a few career options.

Students studying nursing in Canada must complete a university or college approved basic nursing program. Most provinces require a BN (Bachelor of Nursing) or BScN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) degree, but a few still accept both nursing diplomas and degrees for entry to the profession.

In all provinces but Quebec, graduates of the basic education program must successfully complete a national exam from the Canadian Nurses Association to qualify for mandatory provincial/territorial licensure and registration. Quebec requires successful completion of an examination from its provincial professional nursing association to qualify for mandatory licensure and registration.

For more information, visit the websites listed below:

Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador – www.arnnl.nf.ca

Canadian Nurses Association - www.cna-nurses.ca

Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing - www.casn.ca

National Occupation Classification 2006 -

<http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/English/NOC/2006/Welcome.aspx>