



**Canadian Community Health Nursing Professional Practice Model and Standards of Practice (2011):
A summary of changes**

In May 2003, the first national community health nursing (CHN) practice model and standards of practice were released (CHNAC, 2003). These original standards were developed by a representative committee of community health nurses under the auspices of the former Community Health Nurses Association of Canada (now CHNC). Since their inception, the standards have provided a strong foundation for CHN practice. This foundation has served to establish CHN as a specialty and has led to the development of CHN certification by the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) as well as discipline specific competencies for public health nurses and home health nurses.

Following these developments, the evaluation and revision of these standards were recognized as essential to their ongoing use within practice. As a result, the CHNC, Certification, Standards, and Competency Standing committee and the Educational/ Professional Development Standing Committee began a process of standards revision in 2010. The following provides a brief outline of these changes and the new, revised Canadian Community Health Nursing Professional Practice Model and Standards of Practice (CHNC, 2011). The Professional Practice Model identifies the structures, processes and values that support CHN practice including the standards of practice.

Original Standards 2003:

1. Promoting Health
2. Building Individual/Community Capacity
3. Building Relationships
4. Facilitating Access and Equity
5. Professional Responsibility and Accountability

Revised Standards 2011:

1. Health Promotion
2. Prevention and Health Protection
3. Health Maintenance, Restoration and Palliation
4. Professional Relationships
5. Capacity Building
6. Access and Equity
7. Professional Responsibility and Accountability

Overview of revisions:

- 5 standards changed to 7: Standard 1 (Promoting Health) consisted of 3 sub-standards, each sub-standard was separated into 3 standards to ensure equal weighting and importance
- Standards 2 & 3 were switched as professional relationships was seen as an essential component of capacity building
- Greater emphasis on social as well as environmental determinants of health to reflect current practice
- Title of standards were changed to nouns for common language
- Integration of new CHN Professional Practice Model
- Stronger integration of social justice to reflect current practice and social issues within society
- Less redundancy in indicator statements
- Removal of the “knowledge” in the indicators, e.g., Jakarta Declaration, Population Health Promotion Model
- Several new appendices to support CHN practice and application of the standards
- Inclusion of history of CHN practice to highlight its evolution and place within health care and society
- Addition of Moyer’s Model to highlight the relationship between standards and competencies

Canadian Community Health Nursing Professional Practice Model & Standards of Practice can be purchased from Community Health Nurses of Canada www.chnc.ca.