

Support of Advanced Practice: Issues for Nurses in Rural and Remote Canada

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Introduction

- Literature review of support for Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioners in rural and remote Canada





The Nature of Nursing Practice In Rural and Remote Canada Study

- Survey
- Registered Nurses Data Base (RNDB)
- Documentary Analysis
- Narrative Study





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Why Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioners?

Why rural?

Why support?



Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioners- who are they?

Advanced Practice Nurse

- **Clinical Nurse Specialist**
- **Nurse Practitioner:**
 - ◆ **Acute Care Nurse Practitioner**
 - ◆ **Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner**



Why Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioners?

- RNDB, 2000: 12.7% of all nurses in rural communities work in community health/health centres. Largest increase in place of work (up 3.5% from 1994)
- RNDB, 2000: 1% of nurses work in nursing stations



Table 6. Frequency Distribution of Canadian Rural and Urban Communities by Age Groupings for Communities with only 1 RN, 2000

Age Category	Rural Communities		Urban Communities	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
<30	54	0.1	2	6.9
30-39	103	23.1	10	34.5
40-49	127	74.8	5	17.2
50-59	93	2.0	6	20.7
60+	22	5.5	6	20.7
Total	399	100.0	29	100.0

Source: RNDB 2000/CIHI

From: Pitblado, R., Medves, J., MacLeod, M., Stewart, N., & Kulig, J. (2002). Supply and distribution of registered nurses in rural and small town Canada, 2000. Ottawa: CIHI.



Why Rural?

- Limited Research
- RNDB: Rural communities growing but number of nurses decreasing
- RNDB: Rural communities: 21.7% of total population of Canada, only 17.9% of total number of nurses in Canada



Why Support?

2002 Report of the Canadian Nursing Advisory Committee

- * Recommendations to improve quality of nurse's work life
- * Based on Canadian research
- * Supportive work environments for all nurses are vital

Commitment and Care: The benefits of a healthy workplace for nurses, their patients and the system (Baumann et al, 2001)

- * Synthesis of research literature
- * Focus on the supportive work environment & identifies other dimensions of support



Support in Rural Context

MacPhee & Scott (2002) 10 rural hospitals in Colorado

- *Satisfaction with support
- *Social Support-structural & functional
- *Findings: younger nurses-peer support, older nurses-management support

MacLeod (1998) 3 rural hospitals in northern BC “We’re It” study

- * Understanding of everyday nursing practice leads to understanding how to support nursing practice



Support-Nurse Practitioner

- International work
 - ◆ Limited application
- Canadian studies
 - ◆ NPs in urban settings
 - ◆ Limited exploration of support



Framework for looking at Support

- Administration
- Colleagues
- Family
- Community



Administration Support

- Clarification of nurse practitioner role
- Infrastructure
- Continuing education
- Guidelines, policies, standards
- Mentorship and preceptorship programs



Colleague Support

- Registered Nurses
- Nurse Practitioners
- Physicians



Family Support

- Mostly ignored in the literature
- Brown & Olshansky (1998)
when colleague support lacking, newly graduated NPs turned to family and friends for support



Community Support

- Mostly ignored in the literature
- Nursing role blurs into the community role
- Confidentiality, isolation
- Understanding and acceptance of the NP role



Next Steps

My Thesis: The experience of support for primary health care nurse practitioners in rural and remote communities in Canada





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The Nature of Nursing Practice in Rural and Remote Canada Study: Funding Partners

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