



Newsletter

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PRIMARY CARE NURSING IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As we continue to navigate different stages of this pandemic, we see ourselves facing the fourth wave of COVID-19. Although many may have thought that a new year would mean a long-awaited salute to COVID-19, unfortunately this is not the case. We are continuing to face personal and professional changes related to COVID-19, and albeit challenging, we are committed to managing the pandemic with patient care at the forefront. Primary care settings continue to struggle with maintaining quality healthcare delivery, either virtually or through limited, in-person interaction. As other areas of practice cope with the ongoing changes related to personal protective equipment and policy adjustments, primary care has an added element due to the routine nature of care provided in these settings. As primary care nurses, we should continue to enforce the significance of primary care services for the delivery of preventative care, routine screening, and urgent care.

“We are continuing to face personal and professional changes related to COVID-19, and albeit challenging, we are committed to managing the pandemic with patient care at the forefront.”

NEW PRIMARY HEALTHCARE CERTIFICATION

New certified program for primary care nurses? You got it! In a time where educated healthcare professionals are extremely valuable to the efficiency and quality of the healthcare being delivered, this is exciting for primary healthcare. The University of British Columbia is offering a **Graduate Certificate in Primary Health Care (GCPHC)**, available to a variety of healthcare professionals (e.g., nurses, doctors, pharmacists, dieticians) with a relevant undergraduate degree. This program is designed to improve team-based delivery of care, and is an online program, available to students across Canada.

More information can be found at: <https://prhc.med.ubc.ca/about-the-certificate/>

PRIMARY CARE NURSING RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- As mentioned in the previous newsletter, a pan-Canadian team of researchers are looking to identify the role of nurses, family physicians, and pharmacists in primary care during the COVID-19 pandemic, while focusing on pandemic planning for primary care teams across four Canadian provinces. This team has initiated their research for family physicians and pharmacists, and was just awarded *Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)* funding to begin studying the nursing-specific element of this project. This research will help outline the valuable role nurses had during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic in primary care, and the significant role they continue to possess as we navigate the dynamic state of healthcare during the ongoing pandemic, to assist future epidemic/pandemic plans. *Stay tuned for upcoming nursing research from this project!*
- Recent publications:
 - This document analysis outlines international protected titles, job titles, and education requirements of RNs in primary care across 24 countries (e.g., Australia, Canada, France, United Kingdom, United States).
 - *Results:* Overall, 12 countries had no specific title to refer to RNs in primary care, while titles varied among the remaining countries (e.g., primary care nurse, general practice nurse, community nurse). There was no mandatory education requirements for RNs to practice in primary care settings (except for one area of primary care practice in Slovenia).

Barrett, C., Mathews, M., Poitras, M-E., Norful, A., Tranmer, J., Martin-Misener, R., Ryan, D., & Lukewich, J. (2021). Job titles and education requirement of registered nurses in primary care: An international document analysis. *International Journal of Nursing Studies Advances*, 3(2021), 100044. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijnsa.2021.100044>

- This study confirms accuracy of the national competencies developed for primary care/family practice nurses based on reported roles/activities of family practice nurses in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL). These national competencies can be referenced to determine potential nursing contributions for the purpose of expanding and optimizing the primary care nurse role in practice.
- *Results:* The reported roles/activities of family practice nurses in NL were represented within all 6 domains of the national competencies (i.e., Professionalism; Clinical Practice; Communication; Collaboration and Partnership; Quality Assurance, Evaluation and Research; Leadership), identifying roles/activities that were consistent with 39 out of 47 competency statements.

Mathews, M., Ryan, D., Buote, R., Parsons, S., & Lukewich, J. (2021). Family practice nursing in Newfoundland and Labrador: Are reported roles reflective of professional competencies for Registered Nurses in primary care? *SAGE Open Nursing*, 7, 23779608211053496. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23779608211053496>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The University of British Columbia, Faculty of Medicine, Division of Continuing Professional Development (UBC CPD) has developed a variety of accredited, online e-learning courses for professional development. These courses cover a range of topics with many focused on specific clinical areas within primary care (e.g., breast cancer, colorectal cancer, gender-affirmation, HIV). Course weight (i.e. credits) and time required for completion varies across courses. All courses are free for healthcare professionals across Canada, providing great opportunities to gain additional knowledge in your field of study or an area of interest, and/or to obtain professional development hours for continuing competency license requirements. Course availability and information can be found at: <https://ubccpd.ca/learn/learning-activities>.



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



MEMBERSHIP EDUCATION EVENTS

The CFPNA has launched a webinar series, exclusive to CFPNA members, where primary care leaders across Canada will provide education sessions on rising topics in this field. In September 2021, we were fortunate to have **Suzanne Braithwaite BScN, MScN, RN, CCHC(c)** join us to discuss “RN Full Scope of Practice Enactment: Lessons for Primary Care.” This session was well received by our members with great virtual involvement. For those who missed this session, a recording can be found under the *Resources* tab on our webpage, or using this link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1e0WG-yIM39wdDuzhjcAp-MkoAwthH8q6/view>

Our next webinar, scheduled for **January 26, 2022 at 3:00 pm EST**, will be provided by **Madeline Hall** on behalf of the **Canadian Nurses Protective Society (CNPS)**. The topic for this webinar is “Primary Care in the Virtual World: Challenges Nurses May Experience While Providing Care Online.” Registration for this webinar can be found under the *Events* tab on our webpage, or using this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfVwS84cuoUvnWO77vIHGINKkQHDY7ivg2vwQ1N6sf_AeNDHg/viewform?usp=sf_link

We look forward to having you join us for our upcoming webinar! All future webinars (as they are scheduled) can be found on our webpage under *Events* or on social media through our Facebook or Instagram pages.

EXECUTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

The CFPNA is looking for a new addition to our executive team! There is a **vacant position** of Secretary with our executive. If you're interested in joining our team, please reach out to: cfpna.executive@cfpna.ca or send us a message on Facebook or Instagram! Please state the position of interest when reaching out. We can then provide further information on the position and arrange a meeting time.



*Dr. Julia Lukewich, PhD, RN
CFPNA President*

MEET THE CFPNA EXECUTIVE TEAM

Julia Lukewich is currently an associate professor within the Faculty of Nursing at Memorial University (St. John's, NL). She has worked in an emergency department and a community health center in Ontario. Julia received her PhD in Nursing at Queen's University (Kingston, ON). Her research is focused on the integration and optimization of the registered nursing role within primary healthcare settings. Julia recently led a national key stakeholder team in the development of core competencies for primary care/family practice nurses. She has been a member of the CFPNA since 2015.

*From the CFPNA Executive, we would like to wish you all a **Happy New Year!***

We hope for a healthy and prosperous year in 2022 for you all.

CONTACT US

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<https://www.cfpna.ca/>