

November 3, 2010

Wendy Nicklin  
President and Chief Executive Officer.  
Accreditation Canada  
1150 Cyrville Road,  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1J 7S9

Dear Ms. Nicklin,

The purpose of this letter is to request the opportunity to engage in conversation between Community Health Nurses' Initiatives Group of Ontario and Accreditation Canada regarding how we can collectively strengthen and integrate Home Health Nursing Competencies into the accreditation process for home health care organizations.

The Community Health Nurses of Canada (CHNC) has recently released Home Health Nursing Competencies. The aim is to describe the knowledge, skills, judgment and attributes required of home health nurses, as they work with clients/families in the community within a complex health system.<sup>1</sup>

Both the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and Community Care Access Centres in Ontario<sup>2</sup> support the processes of accreditation for home health care service providers as one method to ensure quality service delivery in Ontario. We further understand that service providers are expected to be accredited by recognized bodies, such as the Accreditation Canada. We urge the accrediting bodies for home health care organizations in Ontario to incorporate the new Home Health Nursing competencies into the accreditation guidelines. To facilitate the integration CHNIG offers Accreditation Canada our expertise related to these competencies.

Accreditation can demonstrate accountability, build public confidence and enhance visibility for home health nursing in Ontario. These essential components of home health nursing will contribute greatly to quality in home health care services.

Respectfully,



Katie Dilworth  
President, Community Health Nurses' Initiatives Group, RNAO

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1. Community Health Nurses of Canada (2010). Home health Nursing Competencies. <http://www.chnc.ca>

2. Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (2006) Choosing Quality Rewarding Excellence Ontario's response to the Caplan Report on Home Care