



February 7, 2008

Wendy Nicklin
Executive Director
Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation
1730 St. Laurent Boulevard, Suite 100
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 5L1
Canada

Dear Ms. Nicklin,

The purpose of this letter is to request the opportunity to engage in conversation and partnership between Community Health Nurses Initiative Group of Ontario and Canadian Council of Health Services Accreditation regarding how we can collectively strengthen and integrate Community Health Nursing Standards into the accreditation process for home health care organizations.

In 2003, the Canadian Community Health Nurses Association acclaimed nation wide community health nursing standards of practice. These standards are the hallmark of the community health nursing profession. They inform the practice of registered nurses by expanding on the generic nursing practice expectations and articulate the practice, principles and variations specific to community health nursing practice.¹ The knowledge, skills, and judgment of home health nurses enables them to work on strategies to improve individual and family health while addressing issues in population health that have an impact at the frontline, organizational and the system levels.

As you are aware, both the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and Community Care Access Centres in Ontario support the processes of accreditation for home health care service providers as one method to ensure quality service delivery. We further understand that service providers will be expected to be accredited by recognized bodies, such as the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation (CCHSC) in the future.²

Accreditation can demonstrate accountability, build public confidence and enhance visibility for home health organizations in Ontario. As the community health nursing standards integration process evolves and we begin to create evidence linking standards to client outcomes the indicators of successful integration will become more evident. In the meantime, we would like begin that conversation to identify the methods and types of evidence that CCHSA could look for currently to confirm that these important standards are being integrated into practice.

Respectfully,

Ruth Schofield
President Community Health Nurses Initiative Group RNAO

¹ Community Health Nurses Association of Canada (2003). Canadian Community Health Standards of Practice. <http://www.communityhealthnursescanada.org>

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