

November 4, 2010

Anne Coughlin  
Executive Director  
College of Nurses of Ontario  
101 Davenport Road  
Toronto, ON  
Canada M5R 3P1

Dear Ms. Coughlin,

The purpose of this letter is to respectfully request the College of Nurses to consider the revision of the categories for community health nursing on the annual membership renewal form. Revision of the categories will facilitate accurate data collection about this important area of community health nursing practice in Ontario for planning purposes. The Canadian Nurses Association predicts that by 2020 up to 60% of nursing care will be provided in the community<sup>1</sup>. Clearly, planning for this increase is of crucial importance.

Several studies have identified inconsistencies in the Canadian Institute of Health Information (CIHI) data used to describe the community health nursing workforce.<sup>2 3</sup> The CIHI data is compiled from information supplied by nursing regulators across the country. The Community Health Nurses of Canada and provincial community health nursing associations urge nursing regulators to use consistent data to enable data collection for health human resource planning for community health nursing in the future.

Recently, a 'Vision and Definition' of Community Health Nursing<sup>4</sup> was adopted by the Community Health Nurses of Canada. This document has provided guidance to enable consistent categories of community health nursing in Canada. The following are the categories that have been recommended to CNA and are being recommended to the Canadian Council of Nurse Regulators for community health nursing description:

- **Main Category:** Community Health Nursing
- **Sub categories:** Community Health Nurse, Home Health Nurse, Mental Health Nurse, Parish Nurse, Physician Office Nurse, Primary Care Nurse/Nurse Practitioner, Public Health Nurse, Occupational Nurse, and Outpost Nurse.

To facilitate the integration of the community health nursing positions into the annual membership renewal form the Community Health Nurses' Initiatives Group (CHNIG) offers CNO our expertise related to these titles.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and look forward to further discussion and dialogue.

Sincerely



Katie Dilworth

CHNIG President

## References

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1. Canadian Nurses Association (2008) Toward 2020: Vision for Nursing. Retrieved Aug 30 2010 from [http://www.cna-nurses.ca/CNA/documents/pdf/publications/Vision\\_of\\_Change\\_e.pdf](http://www.cna-nurses.ca/CNA/documents/pdf/publications/Vision_of_Change_e.pdf)
2. Underwood J., Mowat D., Meagher-Stewart D., Deber R., Baumann A., MacDonald M., Akhtar-Danesh N., Schoenfeld B., Ciliska D., Blythe J., Lavoie-Tremblay M., Ehrlich, Knibbs K., and Valerie J. Munroe V. (2009). Building community and public health nursing capacity: a synthesis report of the national community health nursing study. *Canadian Journal of Public Health* September/October 2009.
3. Schofield, R., Ganann, R., Brooks, S., McGugan, J., Dalla Bona, K., Betker, C., Dilworth, K., Parton, L., Reid-Haughian, C., Slepko, M., & Watson, C. (in press). Community Health Nursing Vision 2020: Shaping the future. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*.
4. Community Health Nurses of Canada (2008). Vision and Definition of Community Health Nursing in Canada. Author Retrieved August 18, 2010 from [www.chnc.ca](http://www.chnc.ca)