



June 2017

Northern Health Policies and Clinical Practice Standards Newsletter

Quality and Innovation

New and Revised Clinical Practice Standards

[RAI-HC \(Resident Assessment Instrument\)](#)

By Mary Herauf, Clinical Practice Standards Lead, Home and Community Care

What's new? RAI-HC Clinical Practice Standards have been developed to provide Northern Health specific detail to the Ministry of Health RAI-HC Clinical Standards and Best Practice Guidelines. The Ministry of Health updated their guidelines in May, 2016, in collaboration with BCNU and health authority representatives.

Why is this policy important? The RAI-HC is the clinical instrument used for assessment and care planning for long term community service needs. Providing standards and guidelines around assessor competency and proficiency, timing of RAI-HC assessments, and how to use and share the information, supports consistent, fair and equitable decision making at the front line and organizational level.

Are there resources available at my site? RAI-HC resources available on the Learning Hub and OurNH. Contact Mary Herauf, Clinical Practice Standards Lead, HCC, with questions.

Evidence Corner:

We thought a glimpse at the data we collect in the Policy Office might be of interest:

- 591 average number of views per day of [our site on OurNH](#) April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 (calculated on 12 monthly data collections)
- Nine Policy Rounds held April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 for a total of 237 attendees

Contacts:

To request information or help, send an email to

PoliciesStandards@northernhealth.ca

This newsletter is published four times a year in March, June, September and December.

[Admission Criteria for Long Term Care: Tuberculosis and Pnuemoccal Immunization](#)

By Monica Sephton, Infection Prevention and Control Practitioner

What's new? Reviewed to ensure accuracy of guidelines. More quick links added!

[Vascular Access Devices: Initiation and Use of](#)

By Professional Practice; Parenteral Therapy

What's new? Role of LPNs and RNs with appropriate training is now clarified, unnecessary acronyms removed, links provided to enhanced resources.

Why is this policy important? Clear guidance for nursing staff to work to full-scope in the provision of this important clinical skill.

Are there resources available at my site? Clinical Practice Standard includes links to great resources. Check them out!

Emerging Infectious Disease

[EID: Public Health Protection Services Operational Guide](#)

[EID: Information Technology Operational Guide](#)

[EID: Laboratory Services Operational Guide](#)

[EID: Radiology Services Operational Guide](#)

[EID: Biomedical Engineering Services Operational Guide](#)

[EID Communication and External Relations Plan](#)

[Canadian Blood Services Blood Products Requirements: Pandemic Notification](#)

By Emerging Infectious Disease Plan Working Group

Why is this policy important? To support organizational preparedness for an Emerging Infectious Disease. Complete review of previously named Pandemic Influenza Plan documents underway.

[Skin Tears](#)

By NH Skin, Wound and Ostomy Committee

What's new? This provincial guideline has been revised with an emphasis on prevention. Assessment of skin tears focuses on using Skin Tear Classification according to International Skin Tear Advisory Panel (ISTAP 2015).

Why is this policy important? Supports nurses as part of interdisciplinary teams to provide clinical best practice in the prevention, assessment and treatment of skin tears.

Are there resources available at my site? [Guideline Summary](#) - Skin Tears a two page quick reference guide.

[Neonatal: Assisting with Surfactant Administration Using a Multi-Access Catheter](#)

By Martina Irvine, Neonatal ICU CNE, UHNBC

What's new? This is to help the bedside nurse assist the physician or Respiratory Therapist with administering an infrequently given medication.

Why is this policy important? Supports best practice.

[Harm Reduction Services](#)

By Reanne Sanford, Regional Nursing Lead, Harm Reduction

What's new? Information covered in [Naloxone Administration](#) and [Dispensing of Take Home Naloxone](#) kits removed for clarity.

[Ankle Brachial Index with Adults with Hand Held Doppler](#)

By Elaine Veldman, Skin, Wound and Ostomy RN

What's new? Added competencies for nurses.

[Enteral Nutrition: Adult](#)

By Courtenay Hopson, Chief Clinical Dietitian

What's new? This revised document now includes information on the closed tube feeding system that we are currently using at most NH sites as well as the open tube feeding system still used at some sites.

Most related forms have been updated and made regional.



[Missing Home Support Client](#)

By Christine James,
Administration and Planning
Manager Home and Community
Care

What's new? The steps for ensuring client and employee safety have been clarified and improved. Policy aligns with Working Alone material and [Home Visit Risk Assessment](#) form.

Why is this policy important? Employee safety is key. Also for some Home Support clients the interaction with support workers may be their only outside interaction.

Are there resources available at my site? Resources are being developed...stay tuned!

Neonatal Chest Tubes:

[Assisting with Insertion](#)
[Care and Maintenance](#)

[Assisting with Needle Aspiration](#)

[Assisting with Removal](#)

By Martina Irvine, Clinical Nurse
Educator, Neonatal Intensive
Care Unit, UHNBC

What's new? New clinical practice standards support best practice for neonatal chest tube care.

Are there resources available at my site? Contact Martina Irvine with questions.

[Neonate: Nasogastric and Orogastric Tubes](#)

By Martina Irvine, Clinical Nurse
Educator, Neonatal Intensive
Care Unit, UHNBC

What's new? Outlines insertion, measuring for placement, placement confirmation and troubleshooting placement issues.

Why is this policy important? Any site where neonates are delivered may potentially have feeding issues or care for preterms who are unable to complete feeds orally. Staff at those sites need guidance on how to insert these tubes in this population.

Are there resources available at my site? Contact [Martina Irvine](#) with questions.

[Medication Administration: Safe Medication Administration Practices](#)

And

[Dispensing Medications by Health Care Providers](#)

By Arlene Crawford, Regional
Medication Safety Officer

What's new? Reflects current scope of LPN role in regards to dispensing of medication.

[Work Restrictions for Personnel with or Exposed to Communicable Diseases](#)

By Monica Sephton, Infection and
Prevention

What's new? Reviewed to ensure based on current evidence.

[Adult Inpatient Admission Assessment and Care Planning](#)

By Sheila Gordon-Payne, Chief
Nursing Officer

What's new? All 18 acute sites are now using one common assessment and plan of care form. This is the first step in standardizing the regional acute base admission assessment package. Broad NH participation over two years has informed this standard. Thanks to everyone for their input and implementation efforts at each and every site across NH.

Next steps include more standardized forms in the admission package.

There is also a regional Acute Plan of Care working group established in Nov 2016 currently reviewing the inter professional team process around use of the new forms. The intent is to identify best practices in team approaches that can be spread across NH. Ultimately we hope to move to electronic documentation of assessment and plan of care, and have the ability to electronically access plans of care from community and acute care.



Why is this policy

important? Standardized forms and process across all NH sites ensures consistency in meeting standards of care across the region. The forms support achievement of national standards of care and NH/provincial practice requirements. Interprofessional teams are actively involved on a collective care plan with patient and family input in establishing goals. Forms also facilitate functional assessment and planning to avoid decline in patient functional ability using a rehabilitative approach to care. Teams' use of the forms will lead to better discharge and transition planning and supports team efficiency.

Are there resources available at my site? Key resources include:

- [Learning Hub module](#) for nursing and allied health staff in acute sites
 - [Resource Guide](#)
 - Quick Reference Guide
- Email feedback and concerns to professionalpractice@northernhealth.ca

Identificaton of Newborns

By Mary Cate Nicholson, Clinical Nurse Educator, Maternity UHNBC

What's new? This clinical practice standard represents the regionally determined procedure for identifying newborns.

Why is this policy

important? Identification of patients is an accreditation standard, and this policy addresses the unique procedure of identifying a newborn at birth.

Are there resources available at my site? Contact Ashley van der Meulen, CNE for Maternity, UHNBC, Prince George, 250-649-7592

Provincial Pediatric Early Warning System

By Jennifer Begg, Executive Lead, Child and Youth Health Program

Why is this policy important? Explains how to use PEWS.

Are there resources available at my site? Physician training video and Learning hub course for nurses.

BCG via the Intravesicular Route

By Alice Christensen, Northern Interior Cancer Care Navigator

What's new? Updated wording for clarification and reflection of current wording, added links to relevant documents.

Why is this policy important? Safe Patient Care and safe consistent administration across the region.

Neonates: Car Seat Practice and Discharge

By Martina Irvine, CNE, NICU UHNBC

What's new? No longer doing car seat challenges, as per the *Canadian Pediatric Society*; still getting premature/near term babies up for car seat practice as per UHNBC Pediatrician request.

Why is this policy important? It has been decided by the CPS that car seat challenges are no longer valuable in the determination of airway safety in the car seat.

Neonatal-Care of a newborn on a ventilator

By Martina Irvine, Clinical Nurse Educator, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, UHNBC

What's new? Formally articulates the best practice which is also the current practice.

Neonatal: Assisting with Endotracheal Intubation

By Martina Irvine, Clinical Nurse Educator, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, UHNBC

Why is this policy important? Supports registered nurse with assisting with intubation.

Martina Irvine



[Narcotic and Controlled Drugs](#)

By Arlene Crawford, Regional Medication Safety Officer

What's new? The updated policy reflects the change in ordering new narcotic books, and return of completed books. The audit process is updated. End of shift responsibilities in regards to the narcotic count are more inclusive.

Why is this policy important? Ensures compliance with:

- Accreditation Canada
- Controlled Drugs and Substances Act – Narcotic Control Regulations
- National Associations of Pharmacy Regularity Authorities

- Food and Drug Act of Canada
- College of Registered Nurses of BC
- College of Licensed Practical Nurses of BC
- Pharmacy Operations and Drug Scheduling Act of BC
- Community Care and Assisted Living Act
- ISMP Canada

Are there resources available at my site? Many of useful hyperlinks within the clinical practice standard.

[Adverse Event Following Immunization](#)

By Pat Strim, Regional Immunization Lead

What's new? New reporting process is outlined.

Why is this policy important? Provides clear guidance on what to do when reporting adverse events.

[Assisting with Chest Tube Insertion;](#)

[Chest Tube Care and Maintenance](#) and

[Chest Tube Removal](#)

By Sandra Thorne, CNE Surgical Inpatients, UHNBC

Why are these policies important? Regional guidance for caring for patients with chest tubes throughout NH. Reflects information in the new Chest Tube Drainage Clinical Resource tool. Also refers staff to the new Chest Tube Flowsheet for easy and accurate charting of chest tubes. Provides clarity on RN/LPN scope of practice in regards to assisting with chest tube insertion.

Are there resources available at my site? Links to resources provided in clinical practice standard.

New and Revised Administrative Policies and Procedures

[Incidents During Patient Outings](#)

By Kirsten Thomson, Regional Director Risk and Compliance

What's new? Minor revisions to increase readability and make document easy to understand.

[Reprocessing Foot Care Instruments](#)

By Bonnie Mackenzie, Regional Coordinator, Medical Device Reprocessing

What's new? Follows the recommendation from the Ministry of Health and PICNet.

Recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting foot care instruments has changed. Foot care instruments for hygienic foot care require high level disinfection.

Why is this policy important? Foot care providers are no longer required to bring instruments to the sterile processing departments for steam sterilization.

Are there resources available at my site Discussion Paper from the BC Ministry of Health is referenced in the policy. Training videos for Resert High Level Disinfection and test strips are imbedded in the policy. Contact: [Bonnie Mackenzie](#) with questions.

[Safety Alert: Stop the Line: Responsibility and Authority to Intervene to Protect Patient and Staff Safety](#)



[Personal Protective Equipment in Decontamination Area](#)

By Bonnie Mackenzie, Regional Coordinator Medical Device Reprocessing

What's new? Most current references and guidance for safety.

[Hand Hygiene](#)

By Monica Sephton, Infection Prevention and Control

What's new? Refreshed for greater clarity, no new direction provided. References updated to most current evidence sources.

[Workload Measurement for Dietitians](#)

By NH Dietitians

What is new?

The statistical worksheet and how the data is collected is new for some dietitians.

Why is this policy important?

It is important to have proper statistical gathering for accounting of the dietitian's time to determine how much time is spent with clients face to face, non face to face (etc).

There is a lot of information about how to report statistics so this policy shows examples and explains which statistics are to be reported.

Are there resources available at my site? A resource person would be David Tsok who provided most of the information and is responsible for statistics gathering.

[Petty Cash and Cash Float Policy](#)

By Beverly Little,

[Asset Management](#)

By Mike Hoefler, Regional Director, Capital Planning and Support Services

What's new? New policy which is an overarching policy with many processes falling under its umbrella of influence.

Why is this policy important? Lays an official framework for the related processes which are under development.

[Capital Funding Sources](#)

By Mike Hoefler, Regional Director, Capital Planning and Support Services

What's new? It is now an overarching policy with many processes falling under its umbrella of influence.

Why is this policy important? Obtaining correct funding, engaging in correct reporting to the NH Board and funders including BC Ministry of Health, Regional Health Districts, Foundations and auxiliaries.

[Capital Planning](#)

By Mike Hoefler, Regional Director, Capital Planning and Support Services

What's new? It is now an overarching policy with many processes falling under its umbrella of influence.

Why is this policy important? Supports correct financial planning and reporting to the NH Board and funders including BC Ministry of Health.

New and Revised Clinical Teaching Tools

In support of regional standardization and housing of all educational materials on NH Learning Hub, we are no longer publishing new clinical teaching tools.



Quality & Innovation

POLICY ROUNDS

Is there a policy you would like to present, or see presented at Policy Rounds?

Email your suggestion to PoliciesStandards@northernhealth.ca



Quality and Innovation Policy Rounds - May 4, 2017
12:00-1:00 pm



In person: Bulkley Room,
HSDC Building - 7th Floor, Prince George
WebEx: <https://innovationdevelopment.webex.com>
Meeting Password: policy

Clinical Practice Standard: Falls Prevention Strategy

Presented by:
Jeanette Foreman, Northwest Quality Improvement Lead (on behalf of Elder Program)
Jennifer Begg, Executive Lead, Child and Youth Program
Jane Ritchey, Executive Lead, Perinatal Program
Alice Christensen, Regional Oncology Educator
Jacqueline Abernethy, Clinical Nurse Educator, Hemodialysis

Available on **OurBH**, the regional falls prevention strategy is designed to guide clinicians in evidence-informed decision-making and support teams to meet the Accreditation Canada Required Organizational Practice (ROP) criteria.
Presenters will share updates and answer questions on falls prevention standards for:
Acute Care Adult Medical/Surgical/Psychiatric Patients
Pediatric Inpatients
Obstetric and Newborn Patients
Cancer Care Ambulatory Patients
Kidney Care Ambulatory Patients

Everyone welcome!
Teleconference : 1 877-386-4099 Passcode: 666469#
WebEx <https://innovationdevelopment.webex.com>
Meeting Password: policy

Light refreshments will be available at in-person presentation



Quality and Innovation Policy Rounds - March 16, 2017
12:00-1:00 pm



In person: Learning and Development Centre Room 0505,
University Hospital of Northern BC, Prince George
WebEx: <https://innovationdevelopment.webex.com>
Meeting Password: policy

1-22-4-020: **Haloxone Administration in the Management of Suspected Opioid Overdose**

Presented by: Reanne Sanford, RN, BSN, Certified Practice Sexually Transmitted Infections and Contraceptive Mgmt.
Regional Nursing Lead for Harm Reduction & Sexual Reproductive Health
Cathy Czechmeister, RN, MSc, Professional Practice Lead - Nursing

Available on **OurBH** this regional document contains information to guide clinicians in evidence-informed decision-making.
Join us for this timely presentation—with lots of opportunity for questions and answers.
Everyone welcome!

Light refreshments will be available at in-person presentation

Teleconference : 1 877-386-4099 Passcode: 666469#
WebEx <https://innovationdevelopment.webex.com>
Meeting Password: policy



Quality and Innovation Policy Rounds - October 13, 2016
12:00-1:00 pm



In person: Room 418
UHNBC, Prince George
WebEx: <https://innovationdevelopment.webex.com>
Meeting Password: policy

Clinical Practice Standard: Medication Administration: Safe Medication Administration Practices

Presented by: Arlene Crawford, RN Regional Safety Medication Officer

Available on **OurBH** this regional document contains information to guide clinicians in evidence-informed decision-making.
Join us to hear Arlene:

- Review the recently revised Clinical Practice Standard
- Share why was it revised
- Guide us through an overview of safe medication administration practices

Everyone welcome!

Light refreshments will be available at in-person presentation

Teleconference : 1 877-386-4099 Passcode: 666469#
WebEx <https://innovationdevelopment.webex.com>
Meeting Password: policy

