



Unique Characteristics of Community Health Care

1. It's imperative to remember that you are a guest in the client's home and the client directs the care being given with the guidance from your clinical expertise.
2. Your nursing practice is driven by the current Regulations and legislation governing Nursing and Home Health Care. You must have an understanding of the Standards of Community Health Nursing. (www.chnac.ca)
3. As a Community Health Nurse you must possess a desire to practice with an attention to detail, critical thinking, excellent assessment and problem solving skills.
4. You must have the flexibility of scheduling to accommodate the client's needs while still meeting their health care goals.
5. It is imperative to have access to a reliable vehicle to meet the demands of your role and be competent to drive in all weather conditions.
6. As a Community Health Nurse you are the advocate and liaison for the client's health care goals, as such you will be communicating, directing, and liaising with other health professionals to ensure the client meets the desired outcomes of their care.
7. Community health nurses have strong clinical skills with special attention given to the Nursing Process and the ability to incorporate new technology and technical skills. Excellence in written and verbal communication is imperative.
8. As a Community Health Nurse you must be able to function both as a generalist and a specialist. You must feel confident in competently and proficiently care for a wide range of clinical issues and best practices, examples include: wound care, psychiatry, maternal and child health, pediatrics, foot care, palliative care, chronic disease management, and geriatrics.
9. Community Health Nurses have the ability to function autonomously in a non-structured atmosphere and possess self-direction and independence.
10. Community Health Nurses are driven to continuously learn new skills and technology and adapt their education into practice to best meet the client's needs and goals.
11. As a Community Health Nurse you must possess an acceptance, appreciation and understanding of the diversity of the client's you service, and must incorporate their values and beliefs in to the care you provide in a non-judgmental, open-minded manner.
12. You must genuinely care for the client's wellbeing and possess good listening skills.

13. Managing your time and effectively planning your day is imperative to ensure you're able to meet the needs of your client's while still maintaining safe practice.
14. Community Health Nurses are able to acknowledge change and know that change is a constant in home health nursing.
15. Community Health Nurses possess a sense of humor.

Marrelli, Tina M. (1997) Handbook of Home Health Orientation, St. Louis, Mosby

Home Health Care Practice Page

A Day in the Life of a Home Health Care Nurse

http://www.mao.org/storage/15/979_practice_page_home_health.pdf