



Registered Nurses
Professional Development Centre

Room 231C Bethune Building
1276 South Park Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 2Y9

Orientation to the Canadian Health Care System for Internationally Educated Health Care Professionals

What is the program?

The Registered Nurses Professional Development Centre (RN-PDC) partnered with the College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia (CRNNS), Immigrant Settlement and Integration Services (ISIS) formerly known as Metropolitan Immigration Settlement Association (MISA), and the Halifax Immigrant Learning Centre (HILC) to assist internationally educated health care professionals to navigate the steps toward establishing community integration and employment in Nova Scotia. The RN-PDC developed the program **"Orientation to the Canadian Health Care System for Internationally Educated Health Care Professionals."**

What is the goal of the program?

Internationally Educated Health Professionals are provided with an interprofessional education program focusing on an orientation to the Canadian Health Care System and to the Nova Scotia Health Care System which includes key concepts and principles of professional practice needed to work as health care professionals in Nova Scotia.

What are the objectives of the program?

- To facilitate an understanding of the basic frameworks of the Federal and Provincial Health Care Systems.
- To increase awareness of current practice issues.
- To increase personal and professional confidence while adapting and integrating into a new health care practice setting.

Who should apply?

Internationally Educated Health Care Professionals coming to Nova Scotia who want to be employed in the health care system. Language assessment is required where appropriate.

When does this program take place?

The program is offered twice a year. It is a 3-hour evening session, once a week for 6 weeks, held at the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre, Victoria General Site, Bethune Building, 1276 South Park Street, Halifax, NS.

January 18th to March 1st, 2011

Room 255 from 6 pm to 9 pm. (Tuesday evenings)

Registration is limited.

Who may I contact for more information and/or to request an application?

Sheila Paris
Secretary, RN-Professional Development Centre
Phone 902-473-2175
Email: Sheila.paris@cdha.nshealth.ca

What is the cost of the program?

Course Materials Fee is \$75

What does the program look like?

Using a variety of classroom activities; such as, lectures, role-playing, case studies, and guest speakers, participants will have the opportunity to become familiar with health care issues in Nova Scotia.

Session I

The Canadian Health Care System – The Big Picture

This session explores key concepts around health and well-being for Canadians. The determinants of health are discussed and how they influence the population's health. Primary health care is discussed as a basic organizational structure of the Canadian health care system. The Canada Health Act is described and the relationship between the federal and provincial governments.

Session II

Cultural Diversity – Who We Are As Professionals

In this session the concepts of culture related to cultural diversity in health care are discussed, along with phases of culture shock and adjustment. Workplace culture and the subculture of health care in Canada are discussed with implications for professionals in practice.

Session III

Nova Scotia Health Care System - The Provincial Perspective

- **Structure/Primary Health Care Renewal/Health Care Concerns**

This session focuses on the various aspects of the Nova Scotia health care system, including a description of the organizational structure of the District Health Authorities, and a discussion of the Primary Health Care Renewal project. Health projects in Nova Scotia are explored. The main health care concerns for Nova Scotians are identified along with the main health care cost drivers in Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia Health Care System - Delivery of Care

Included in this session is an overview of factors that influence the delivery of health care in Nova Scotia. Various health care delivery models are identified, along with a description of the interdisciplinary team members who work in health care in Nova Scotia.

Session IV

Professional Practice - Working Effectively in Nova Scotia - Patient/Family Centered Care/Collaborative Practice /Conflict Resolution

This session highlights the significance, characteristics, and benefits of patient/family centered care and collaborative practice. Communication strategies with the patient/family and health professional team members are identified. An overview of conflict resolution is provided.

Professional Practice - Working Effectively in Nova Scotia - Professionalism/Reflective Practice/Standards of Practice

Professionalism is a concept which is receiving more attention in recent years in the various health professions. The meaning of professionalism and the elements of professionalism are described. Skills needed for reflective practice are provided and the value of standards of practice is highlighted.

Session V

Professional Practice - Working Effectively in Nova Scotia - Ethics/Legal

A section of this session is devoted to ethical issues. Factors are explored that contribute to the complexity of ethical dilemmas, and themes present in codes of ethics are identified. Following a description of ethical principles, an ethical decision making process is explored. There is a discussion of legal issues to gain an understanding of Canada's legal system in health care related matters.

Professional Practice - Working Effectively in Nova Scotia - Safety in Health Care

Safety in health care has become a very significant topic for health care professionals in Canada with safe and competent care being shared at many levels. Discussions include those systemic factors that are seen to contribute to problems with patient safety.

Session VI

Contemporary Health Care Issues

Topics highlighted in this session include cancer care, palliative care, mental health, end-of-life decisions, pain management, abortion, and addictions. Information from the previous four sessions concerning professional practice is applied to these topics.

Next Steps/Making It Happen/Evaluation

The focus of this session is to provide a summary of the previous nine sessions and to pursue further questions concerning prior content. A brief discussion is provided to encourage the participants to talk about their steps in the process of obtaining licensure.