



# Open Letter to Nurses

Information for nurses working in the Winnipeg health region.

October 2008

In this issue: Education, Interprofessional education and care.

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Fall has many people talking of back-to-school. Whether you are being asked “how do I become a nurse” or thinking yourself of further education, all of us need to keep up with the latest in the education sector. Programs are expanding, changing or adding to their curriculums continuously to bring better educational options to nurses. There are a variety of educational opportunities in new technology, methods of delivery and new course content to choose from throughout the remainder of the year and into 2009.

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If you are already a nurse and have completed the Law & Ethics in Nursing course in the Faculty of Nursing, University of Manitoba, then you have the prerequisite for the 5th Annual WRHA Level Two: Ethics Resource Workshop happening on October 29 – 31, 2008. Learn about conflict resolution in ethical situations, systematic approaches to ethics in clinical decision making, and discover some excellent ethics resources in the Winnipeg region and on the web. There is no fee to register for nurses working in the Winnipeg health region. Contact 926-7124 or [ethics@wrha.mb.ca](mailto:ethics@wrha.mb.ca) for more information. Hurry, hurry – this course is almost full!

If you are asked “how do I become a nurse” here are some options: Brandon University, University College of the North, University of Manitoba, Red River College and Assiniboine Community College all offer various nursing programs.

The Faculty of Nursing, University of Manitoba, will have new opportunities for graduate applicants to specialize in practice (CNS or RN(EP) for example), educator or administrator. The

Faculty has also established an Aboriginal Nursing Cohort Program to address the need for Aboriginal nursing practitioners in Manitoba. Twenty-three students are already registered! The Faculty of Nursing, University of Manitoba, received several awards this year through CRNM and CNA – a nod to the excellent teaching, researching and relationship building of the various faculty members there.

Fluent in French? The Diplôme en Sciences infirmières (Nursing Diploma) program of the Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface (CUSB) is committed to providing quality nursing education to its students and to training a bilingual nursing workforce. In collaboration with their partner, École des sciences infirmières of the University of Ottawa, the curriculum has been enhanced to respond to changes taking place in all areas of nursing and health care delivery. Committed to preparing graduates for the complex patient/client situations nurses encounter, CUSB has invested in the nursing skills laboratories by purchasing SimMan patient simulators (adult and child), modifying simulation scenarios

and by training educators to use this educational tool to enhance students’ learning experience. The Nursing Diploma Program at CUSB articulates into the fourth year of the Baccalauréat ès sciences en sciences infirmières of the University of Ottawa, which is offered via distance delivery (video conference) on the CUSB campus to its diploma graduates.

Assiniboine Community College delivers a 15-month Practical Nurse training program, with two intakes of 35 students in Brandon and two intakes of 35 at the Winnipeg training centre. In addition, two sites of 25 students each are delivered to rural areas of the province. Actual training sites are rotated annually to cities/towns demonstrating the greatest need that are able to provide adequate training supports. Rural rotating sites currently operating in Manitoba include Ashern (ending December 2008), Deloraine (ending April 2009), Steinbach (ending December 2009) and Winkler (ending April 2010). Contract

**Interprofessional Care:** The provision of comprehensive health services to patients by multiple healthcare givers who work collaboratively to deliver quality care within and across settings.

Although there are pockets of interprofessional practice and teamwork occurring across the region, formal teams tend to be the exception. Over the last two years, a number of initiatives and/or activities have occurred to advance interprofessional education and practice:

Health Canada: Building on a recommendation from the Romanow Report, Health Canada established a Health Human Resource Strategy, one component of which was Interprofessional Education for Collaborative Patient Centered Practice. Representatives from Manitoba participated in a Western Canadian Partnership work group on Health Human Resource Planning and Interprofessional Education in September 2007. A follow-up meeting was held in Saskatoon in March 2008.

A research proposal has been submitted to a national working group to establish and formally evaluate formal clinical learning units within the region with Ruby Grymonpre from the Faculty of Pharmacy and Jan Currie as the local Principal Investigators.

Manitoba is the only Canadian participant on the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) "Health Professions Education Collaborative". In April 2009, the IHI-HPEC will be holding a meeting in Winnipeg.

Within the University, an Interprofessional Education office has been created under the leadership of Dr. Kerr, Vice-President. The development of the academic IPE office is an integral component of the Centre for Healthcare Innovation.

There is also significant work on other fronts to advance Interprofessional education and practice including an Interprofessional student clinic, Winnipeg Innerscity Student Clinic (WISH) involving students and faculty advisors from various faculties. They are working to set up a community clinic in the core area and plan to open its doors in September 2008.

The Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI) has been involved in creating national common competencies for patient safety and one of these domains is teamwork.

There are many existing teams within the region that are currently practicing in an Interprofessional collaboration. Some include: GPAT, Prehab, and PACT. The Pediatric Diabetes team at Children's has established a template for a formal collaborative learning unit with a self-directed curriculum, student team activities, and a formal evaluation of collaborative skills.

training in northern communities that experience an ongoing shortage of medical care is also available. Graduates of the Practical Nursing program are recognized for their competency at a broad range of skills, and are contributing to enhanced treatment of health care consumers.

Assiniboine Community College provides other health related training such as the new online interdisciplinary Palliative Care post-graduate certificate and a post-graduate foot care course that is currently being piloted by Assiniboine and developed in partnership with the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Manitoba, Winnipeg Technical College and Red River College.

Red River College has recently received a funding boost for the RRC Nursing Programs. Sixteen additional nursing seats have been added to the fall program and funding will also go to expanding and upgrading related training facilities.

Information on nursing programs and courses can be found at:

<http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/nursing/>

<https://www.ucn.ca/ics/programs/>

<http://www.brandonu.ca/academic/healthstudies>

<http://public.assiniboine.net/>

<http://me.rrc.mb.ca/catalogue/>

<http://www.ustboniface.mb.ca/>

Access to the current issue and past issues of Open Letter to Nurses is available on INSITE. Submissions and comments are welcome.

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