



UNION JOB DESCRIPTION

JD1115

JOB TITLE:	Street Outreach Nurse	JOB DESCRIPTION NO.:	80161/N.Cl.25001.032
CLASSIFICATION:	Community Health - Profile Classification - Level 3	GRID/PAY LEVEL:	NL3
COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT:	Nurses Bargaining Association	HSCIS NO.:	25001
UNION:	BCNU	JOB/CLASS CODE:	SI: 80161 Cl: 25001
PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT:	Communicable Disease Program; North Vancouver Island Public Health; Public Health	BENCHMARKS (If Applicable):	
REPORTING TO:	Manager or designate		
FACILITY/SITE:	Various VIHA sites: Mt. Waddington Integrated Health Services; Nanaimo Communicable Disease Office; Victoria Health Unit; Central Island Health Services Delivery Area		

JOB SUMMARY:

In accordance with the Vision, Purpose, and Values, and strategic direction of the Vancouver Island Health Authority (Island Health), patient and staff safety is a priority and a responsibility shared by everyone; as such, the requirement to continuously improve quality and safety is inherent in all aspects of this position.

The Street Outreach Nurse is an integral part of the designated program and works under the direction of the Manager or designate. The role of the Street Outreach Nurse is based on the philosophy of harm reduction and focused on duties related to the prevention and control of reportable communicable disease specifically but not limited to HIV, viral hepatitis, tuberculosis (TB) and sexually transmitted infection (STI). Practice is consistent with BC College of Nurses and Midwives professional and practice standards. The target population is those who are street involved and at high risk or already infected with reportable communicable disease as noted above and who frequently suffer with mental health and/or addiction issues. The role is largely clinical with a complimentary educational component. The Street Nurse provides support to the MHO in the control and prevention of communicable disease, as per Bill 23, Public Health (PH) Act, 2008.

TYPICAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Provides screening, diagnostic, prophylactic and therapeutic services, to outreach clients in an unstructured environment, to prevent and control communicable diseases including, but not limited to HIV, viral hepatitis, TB and STI. Typical duties and responsibilities include:
 - Employing the BC College of Nurses and Midwives Decision Support Tools (DST) in the provision of client care;
 - Interviewing clients, taking relevant history and carrying out physical examinations;
 - Obtaining specimens as necessary for diagnostic confirmation. Providing pre and post-test counseling;
 - Administering appropriate STI and TB treatment and prophylaxis. Consulting with and/or referring to physicians and other health professionals as consistent with BC College of Nurses and Midwives standards;
 - Providing basic first aid, including CPR;
 - Providing adult vaccines consistent with the Provincial Immunization and Communicable Disease Guidelines and the direction of the MHO;
 - Referrals to a wide range of health related services encompassing the social determinants of health;

- In consultation with the TB Program and under the direction of the MHO, taking the lead with active, latent and at risk clients who are street involved. Includes initial assessment, testing and directly observed therapy;
- Timely response to outbreaks and higher than normal levels of occurrence of communicable disease including TB, viral hepatitis and STIs;
- Accompanying high-risk clients to appointments with other health professionals if requested by client and as organizational demands permit;
- Providing harm reduction education and supplies towards safer drug use and safer sex; and
- Supporting the MHO, to locate, assess, examine, vaccinate, supervise, inspect and/or impose isolation on street involved clients who are either the subject of an MHO order under the PH Act, or are at risk of being the subject of an MHO order if they do not adhere to MHO direction.

2. The Street Nurse supports the MHO in the control and prevention of communicable disease, as per Bill 23, PH Act, including:

- Vaccination and other preventative treatments such as directly observed therapy for TB
- Inspecting for the purposes of determining if a person is infected
- Supervision, examination and/or imposing isolation on persons as specified by the MHO
- Mandatory examination and providing evidence of compliance with a MHO order
- Delivery of MHO orders to the client and support towards compliance with the order

3. Provides health education and promotion services to street-involved individuals and groups with the goal of increasing knowledge and promoting behavior change to prevent the acquiring and/or spread of infection with HIV, viral hepatitis, TB, STI and other communicable disease. Self-responsibility for client health is promoted by:

- Providing current information and risk reduction education, from a nursing perspective, on issues relating to safer sex and safer drug use;
- Developing educational workshops, materials and pamphlets for specific, high-risk individuals and groups; and
- Providing education to community agency personnel and the general public with the goal of increasing knowledge of reportable communicable disease, as well as to reduce stigmatism.

4. Coordinates Outreach Nursing Services with other community services and agencies by:

- Working with community-based street-oriented organizations to plan, implement and deliver preventive HIV, viral hepatitis, TB and STI educational materials, workshops and programs to the street involved community.
- Liaising with a wide range of professional and paraprofessional health care providers including acute care staff, community physicians and nurses, social workers and outreach workers attached to community services and agencies.

5. Performs other related duties such as:

- Maintaining/ordering clinical supplies and cleanliness of outreach clinical area;
- Monitoring and handling of vaccines and biologicals as consistent with the Provincial Guidelines;
- Handling of specimens as consistent with best practice;
- Providing field experience for health professionals embarking on similar outreach projects;
- Takes responsibility for maintaining expertise and current level of knowledge in own professional practice; and
- Takes responsibility for maintaining all required certifications e.g. STI & Immunization, and professional affiliations and licenses;
- Contributes to the planning, development and evaluation of communicable disease prevention and control programs including:

- Participating in community or professional committees, advisory boards and meetings related to the client population, as directed by the program coordinator;
- Identifying gaps and overlaps in existing services; and
- Participating in research related to the client population.

6. Other related duties.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education, Training And Experience

Graduation from a recognized nursing program with community or public health component. A minimum of 5 years' nursing experience, a minimum of 2 of which is public health related preferably in the area of reportable communicable disease. Registration with BC College of Nurses and Midwives as a practicing RN(C) registrant. STI Certification with the BC College of Nurses and Midwives; Immunization Competency BC.

A valid BC driver's license is required.

Skills And Abilities

- A comprehensive knowledge of communicable diseases in general and specifically counseling, testing, and prophylaxis of HIV, viral hepatitis, TB and STI and treatment of TB and STI;
- Basic skills in epidemiology;
- HIV Partner Notification and Pre and Post Test Counseling with BCCDC are preferred
- An enhanced knowledge of application of harm reduction philosophy and principles to practice;
- An enhanced knowledge of cultural safety and application to practice; and
- A basic knowledge of mental health issues, illicit drug use and problematic use of alcohol.
- Nursing clinical skills related to examination and testing for a range of communicable diseases including, but not limited to, HIV, viral hepatitis, STI and TB, including: Venopuncture, female pelvic exams, STI exam, pap test, male STI exam, TB skin and sputum test, interpretation of laboratory results.
- First Aid and CPR;
- Basic skills in identifying drug induced and intoxicated states and withdrawal symptoms;
- Violence prevention and defusing violent behavior;
- Ability to work effectively and safely in an unstructured environment;
- Excellent communication, public relations, interpersonal, and networking skills with the ability to develop professional, relationships of trust with clients that will engage them in the clinical aspects of the Street Nurse Program and, when ready, to move them towards safer lifestyle practices and more mainstream health care services;
- Ability to monitor and report, on a qualitative basis, health related issues that affect the target population;
- Ability to educate and present to client, professional and community groups;
- Ability to apply a community development approach when working with client and community groups; and
- Computer literacy and data entry.