

The Mosaic of Primary Care Nurses in Rural and Remote Canada: Results from a National Survey

Mosaïque de la main-d'œuvre infirmière en soins primaires dans les régions canadiennes rurales et éloignées : résultats d'une enquête nationale

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Appendix 1: Practice responsibilities of nurses in PC-Only and PC- Plus groups

TABLE 4. Practice responsibilities of nurses in PC-Only and PC-Plus groups

	PC-Only N = 192 n (%)	PC-Plus N = 111 n (%)	χ^2 p-value
Assessment			
Complete history and physical	142 (74.0)	100 (90.1)	<0.001
Focused history and physical	169 (88.0)	102 (91.9)	0.291
Laboratory tests			
Ordering	156 (81.3)	97 (87.4)	0.166
Performing and analysing on-site	81 (42.2)	80 (72.1)	<0.001
Interpreting	146 (76.0)	98 (88.3)	0.009
Advanced diagnostic tests			
Ordering	81 (42.2)	27 (24.3)	0.002
Performing	43 (22.4)	18 (16.2)	0.196
Interpreting and following up	94 (49.0)	53 (47.7)	0.839
Diagnostic imaging			
Ordering routine	121 (63.0)	86 (77.5)	0.009
Ordering advanced	59 (30.7)	20 (18.0)	0.015
Performing	27 (14.1)	60 (54.1)	<0.001
Interpreting and following up	102 (53.1)	74 (66.7)	0.021

	PC-Only N = 192 n (%)	PC-Plus N = 111 n (%)	χ^2 p-value
Diagnosis and referral			
Follow protocols or use decision-support tools	106 (55.2)	92 (82.9)	<0.001
Independently make a nursing diagnosis	130 (67.7)	93 (83.8)	0.002
Independently make a medical diagnosis	108 (56.3)	67 (60.4)	0.485
Independently make referrals to medical specialists	86 (44.8)	49 (44.1)	0.913
Therapeutic management			
Dispensing medication	90 (46.9)	89 (80.2)	<0.001
Prescribing independently	96 (50.0)	53 (47.7)	0.706
Prescribing using protocols/guidelines	72 (37.5)	87 (78.4)	<0.001
Emergency care and transportation			
Provide care during urgent/emergent transportation	58 (30.2)	73 (65.8)	<0.001
Respond/lead emergency calls as a first responder	45 (23.4)	64 (57.7)	<0.001
Respond/lead emergency search and rescue calls	13 (6.8)	27 (24.3)	<0.001

Note. Unless otherwise noted, responses are presented as percentages of total responses and exclude missing cases. Bolded values are significant at $p < 0.05$.

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Appendix 2: Practice responsibilities of nurse practitioners (NPs), registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs) in primary care

Work in a PC setting and identify PC as area of current practice (sole area or one of more than two areas) N = 303						
	NP N = 109 n (%)	RN N = 155 n (%)	LPN N = 39 n (%)	χ^2 p-value	Pairwise Comparisons	
					NP vs. RN p-value	RN vs. LPN p-value
Assessment						
Complete history and physical	105 (96.3)	116 (74.8)	21 (53.8)	<0.001	<0.001	0.010
Focused history and physical	107 (98.2)	139 (89.7)	25 (64.1)	<0.001	0.007	<0.001
Therapeutic management						
Dispensing medication	51 (46.8)	111 (71.6)	17 (43.6)	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Prescribing independently	99 (90.8)	50 (32.3)	—	<0.001	<0.001	—
Prescribing using protocols/ guidelines	35 (32.1)	119 (76.8)	5 (12.8)	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Laboratory tests						
Ordering	104 (95.4)	130 (83.9)	19 (48.7)	<0.001	0.004	<0.001
Performing and analysing on-site	42 (38.5)	107 (69.0)	12 (30.8)	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Interpreting	101 (92.7)	128 (82.6)	15 (38.5)	<0.001	0.017	<0.001
Advanced diagnostic tests						
Ordering	79 (72.5)	24 (15.5)	5 (12.8)	<0.001	<0.001	0.674
Performing	57 (52.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Interpreting and following up	94 (86.2)	48 (31.0)	5 (12.8)	<0.001	<0.001	0.023

	NP N = 109 n (%)	RN N = 155 n (%)	LPN N = 39 n (%)	χ^2 p-value	Pairwise Comparisons	
					NP vs. RN p-value	RN vs. LPN p-value
Diagnostic imaging						
Ordering routine	103 (94.5)	96 (61.9)	8 (20.5)	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001
Ordering advanced	61 (56.0)	13 (8.4)	5 (12.8)	< 0.001	< 0.001	0.395
Performing	8 (7.3)	79 (51.0)	—	< 0.001	< 0.001	—
Interpreting and following up	88 (80.7)	85 (54.8)	—	< 0.001	< 0.001	—
Diagnosis and referral						
Follow protocols or use decision-support tools	47 (43.1)	128 (82.6)	23 (59.0)	< 0.001	< 0.001	0.002
Independently make a nursing diagnosis	81 (74.3)	132 (85.2)	10 (25.6)	< 0.001	0.028	< 0.001
Independently make a medical diagnosis	101 (92.7)	73 (47.1)	—	< 0.001	< 0.001	—
Independently make referrals to medical specialists	88 (80.7)	47 (30.3)	—	< 0.001	< 0.001	—
Emergency care and transportation						
Provide care during urgent/emergent transportation	32 (29.4)	94 (60.6)	5 (12.8)	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001
Respond/lead emergency calls as a first responder	20 (18.3)	85 (54.8)	—	< 0.001	< 0.001	—
Respond/lead emergency search and rescue calls	4 (3.7)	36 (23.2)	—	< 0.001	< 0.001	—

— Indicates cell size <5. Bolded values are significant at p < 0.05.

Note. Given the legislated differences in scope of practice, NP and LPN comparisons were not included. Unless otherwise noted, responses are presented as percentages of total responses and exclude missing cases. Z-test was used to compare two proportions.