

I currently hold a position as the Aboriginal Liaison Nurse at the Campbell River District Hospital on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada. I use a referral form that hospital staff complete and fax to me. I then consult Aboriginal patient/families to ascertain if there are any services or assistance that be provided for them. The philosophical underpinning of the Aboriginal Liaison Nurse is to promote and provide culturally competent and holistic care within mainstream services (for Aboriginal, First Nation, Metis and Inuit people).

My referral form is very basic and I would like to revise it to include aspects of "good practice". I am interested in creating a referral form for the Aboriginal Liaison Nurse position to identify and reflect: 1) the hospital staff's concerns for the patient/family/community, 2) the social determinants of health immediately prior to admission to hospital, 3) the cultural needs of the hospitalized patient/family, 4) organizing support required to have health services follow the patient post discharge and reflecting the interagency collaboration to support continuity of care.

I am out of my element in the creation of this referral form and ask you for some assistance or direction in how I might go about writing it. If you have any knowledge of a referral form in existence or could direct me to someone who has these skills, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance for any assistance or direction you may provide. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards

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Editor's note: Sandy kindly agreed to let us share her note with readers. If any of you have expertise in this area or have suggestions for Sandy, please email her directly at the address provided. Many thanks!

Saskatchewan Lures NPs

Saskatchewan has amended regulations to the 2001 Registered Nurses Amendment Act, allowing nurse practitioners (NPs) to practice to the full scope of their license. Between 1994 and 1998, more than 80 nurses graduated from NP programs in Saskatchewan. The government has also announced the availability of bursaries of up to \$5,000 for nurses training to be NPs as long as they work in the province for at least a year after graduation.

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