Every nurse is only too aware of the necessity to document and record when practising our profession. We are taught this from day one of nursing training. Not only is it a legal requirement but it is a vital form of communication. With the decreasing length of stays, increased acuity and greater use of Pre-Admission, Day Surgery, Ambulatory Care Clinics, Home Care and Public Health, more and more people are becoming involved in the total care of the patient. Communication is of the utmost.

The first aspect of documentation that we as nurses are confronted with is the legal requirement to prove safe, professional care has been given to the patient. This care must, of course, be within our scope of practice and be within the policies and guidelines set down by the employer. Care must also be given in accordance with Standards of Nursing Practice. The registrar of our provincial nurses association, who recently spoke at our ward’s annual education day, couldn’t emphasize enough that in a court of law “if it wasn’t documented, it wasn’t done”. It is a matter of accountability.

It would seem that every time we turn around there is a new form to be completed, there is a new format for documenting, and there are more people who need to know, especially with the team approach to healthcare. Time is valuable to everyone and documentation is an essential part of a workload. The question that needs to be asked in healthcare is: Are the appropriate players communicating the necessary information so the patients receive proper diagnosis and treatment/care?

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This is the day of informed consent and in the last decade we have seen a flurry of activity to educate the patient in what will happen, how it will happen, what are the possible consequences and what are the options, if any.

Booklets, pamphlets, CDs, videos and teaching sessions have all been developed, primarily by nurses, because we are the healthcare educators. Everything we teach must be documented though.
Documentation of this type is essential to pre-admission clinics where education and instruction is prime. A suggested list of instruction/education on a Patient/Family Education Record pre-operatively would include:

1. Check in Time at the hospital and where to report
2. The need to have a shower/bath on the morning of surgery
3. NPO from midnight before the surgery
4. What medications should and shouldn’t be taken.
5. What to bring.
6. The need for someone to pick up after day surgery and stay with the patient.

Documenting education and instruction is very important when patients are discharged from hospital whether it be Day Surgery or the Ward. The patient/family is being held accountable as well. The patient/family is being asked to sign that they have understood the information or instructions and that they have no further questions. They then receive a copy of the form with everything from the review listed.

Computer documentation is only in its infancy. Informatics is going to demand greater standardization. At a recent CUA meeting a group of doctors from London, Ontario gave an excellent presentation on a program they have developed for taking and recording a History and Physical. In the not too distant future there will be online access to documentation locally, provincially and across the country. I am sure we will see programs for nurses very soon.

Documentation will always be an essential part of nursing. How we do it may change, but do it we must. Remember it is not just another task. It is a way to communicate vital information.

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Continued from page 1

Edmonton’s Urology Daze

Leslie Hanson
UNC Alberta Provincial Rep

Each year in the spring the Edmonton Chapter hosts an educational day known as Urology Daze. Their theme this year was “Healthy Living”.

Female Sexual Dysfunction, Depression in the Lives of Women and their Families, Osteoporosis, Women’s Cardiac Health and Incontinence Issues and Treatment were all discussed. Gloria Harrison and Diana Mac Donald hosted a game called “Who Wants to Be a Dry Millionaire” which went over very well and served as an assessment tool for the committee. The educational day was very well received by the many who attended and comments were positive.

Any chapter who has hosted a day such as this will tell you that every bit of the organization required is worth it. We need educational updates and we need to get together.

Procure.ca

A new website is being launched dedicated to all people seeking information on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and eventual cure of prostate cancer.

Alliance Procure is a non-profit organization created in Quebec to provide science and humanity with a means to help prevent and cure prostate cancer.

They have two goals.

• Initiate ongoing dialogue with the public and the healthcare community to provide needed information and support.
• To fund and structure a Biobank.

The first initiative is to create a bilingual website which will detail regional prostate cancer resources, both medical and social.

For further information contact:
Ms Jean Stutsman,
Executive Director,
ProCure Alliance
514-985-1322
E-mail: info@procure.ca

Applications/Nominations

Please send all nominations and applications for Awards to:
Sandra Rowan,
200 - 1121 Yates St.,
Victoria, BC
V8N 3N1
E-mail: s.rowan@shaw.ca
Fax: 250-381-3748

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How To Register Online

Many people have access to the internet and so the UEC - 2004 committee has developed the following steps to register online for the Urological Excellence Conference to be held in Calgary, AB on September 23-25, 2004.

The online registration can be found at www.unc.org

Do not forget to send your cheque or money order to:
Bev Christensen
Urology Excellence Conference - 2004,
9816 – 19th Street SW,
Calgary, AB
T2V 4C3

The cheque should be made payable to: UEC 2004

STEPS
1. Fill out personal information
2. Check which conference fee applies to you
3. Check if you need extra tickets for Friday night
4. Check which dinner menu you would like
5. Check which concurrent sessions you wish to attend
6. SUBMIT YOUR ONLINE REGISTRATION BY PUSHING THE REGISTER BUTTON.

You may also print the online form and post with your fees to the above address.

THE 17TH ANNUAL UROLOGICAL EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE

Calgary
Urology Nurses of Canada needs your application for the annual awards that we are able to offer through the continued support of our corporate sponsors.

Is there some research in the field of urological nursing you wish to do? What about developing some educational material? Perhaps there is some further education you wish to pursue.

Here is an opportunity for you!

Awards are available in the following categories:

**Editorial Award**
This award will be given to a UNC member who has written an article, paper or editorial that has been published in the past year and has not been previously published.

**Research Award**
This award is available to a UNC member proposing research related to urological nursing practice in one of the following sub-specialties: urodynamics, biofeedback, endourology, sexual health, uro-oncology or incontinence.

**Scholarship Award**
This award is available to a UNC member who wishes to further his/her education as related to the practice of nursing.

**Male Sexual Dysfunction Scholarship**
This award is available to a UNC member who wishes to further their interest in male sexual dysfunction.

This year $1000 will be granted for each of the Editorial, Research and Scholarship awards. The Male Sexual Dysfunction Scholarship will remain at $2000 as in previous years.

These awards are made available through unrestricted educational grants given via our Corporate Sponsorship Program.

The deadline for applications is August 31, 2004.

Forms are available at www.unc.org.

Do not forget to include your body artwork.

**UNC Award Of Merit**
It is time to recognize that "special" UNC nurse in your group. The one who has done that "extra something" for your chapter, your workplace, or your community.

Each year UNC proudly and publicly recognizes an individual who has made significant contribution through education, research or clinical practice or has achieved distinction through excellence in UNC promotion, UNC mentoring or other enhancement of the UNC Mission.

Over the years many of our finest nurses have been honored with this award. We have some exceptional people within our ranks and they need to be recognized.

The Award of Merit will be presented at the Urological Excellence Conference in Calgary, Alberta.

Primary Health Care (PHC) has been defined as the first level contact with people taking action to improve health in a community. Primary Health care is essential health care made accessible at a cost, which the country and community can afford, with methods that are practical, scientifically sound and socially acceptable (World Health Organization, 1998(a/b) Health Promotion Glossary). Here five basic elements are identified – accessibility, health promotion, intersectoral collaboration, public participation and appropriate technology.

The PHC framework principles to reflect these five elements should include:
1. Citizen choice
2. Access to a defined range of services
3. 24/7 access to urgent and emergent services
4. Health promotion and prevention of illness and injury.
5. Use of human resources effectively
6. Value of continuing education
7. Linkages between service levels
8. Evidence based decision-making
9. Community development approach

The three major goals should be:
- Improve Health Status
- Improve Community Capacity
- Improve quality, access and sustainability

Some of the features of Primary Health Care will be:
1. PHC teams
2. Physician networks
3. PHC networks
4. Health promotion and wellness
5. Community input and capacity building
6. Access
7. Scope of practice
8. Emergency transportation
9. Information and communications technology
10. Funding and payment models
11. Accountability

There will need to be PHC supports in place.

Consultation and recommendations for success have born this out. There will be a need to modify organizational structure and ensure public health services are supported and expanded. There needs to be a focus on wellness and a clarification of the role of mental health, wellness, addictions and long-term care.

Primary Health Care will be a partnership between the people, care providers and various levels of governance. It is aimed at providing an accessible and affordable healthcare system.

UNC Representatives 2002 - 2003

UNC Executive

The Urology Nurses of Canada is managed by an executive board composed of:

President: Sue Hammond
Past President: Laurel Emerson
Vice-President West: Colleen Toothill
Vice-President East: Emmie Champion
Vice-President Central: Susan Freed
Membership: Angela Black
Sponsorship: Marcel Lewis
Treasurer: Lisa Lynch
Secretary: Brenda Bond

UNC Provincial Representatives

British Columbia: Jill Jeffrey
Alberta: Lesley Hansen
Ontario: Lucy Rebelo
Quebec: Marie-Josee Tardiff
Newfoundland: Tracey Tompkins
New Brunswick: Gina Porter
Nova Scotia: Liette Connor

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Ontario: Lucy Rebelo
Quebec: Carol-Anne Lee
Newfoundland and Labrador: Tracey Tompkins
British Columbia: Jill Jeffery
Alberta: Lesley Hansen
Ontario: Lucy Rebelo
Quebec: Marie-Josee Tardiff
Newfoundland: Tracey Tompkins

How to form a local UNC Group

1. Contact nurses and allied health in your area interested in Urologic Nursing.
2. Pick a topic and a speaker (for the initial meeting).
3. Book meeting room.
4. Contact local sales rep for potential support of meeting.
5. Advertise meeting and distribute information about the UNC.
6. Create local executive e.g. chairperson, secretary, treasurer.
7. Organize educational meetings/events.
8. Contact UNC provincial representative regarding local business meetings.
9. Encourage submissions of articles and upcoming events to “Pipeline”.

UNC Info

Urology Nurses of Canada

The Urology Nurses of Canada extends an invitation to all nurses and allied health interested in urologic nursing to join the association. The Urology Nurses of Canada is a National Association whose mandate is to enhance the specialty of urologic nursing in Canada by promoting education, research and clinical practice.

The activities of the Urology Nurses of Canada are designed to enrich members’ professional growth and development.

The UNC hosts an annual conference each fall and convenes for an educational meeting at the Canadian Urological Association annual meeting each June.

Membership in the UNC now entitles you to receive 6 issues of Urological Nursing Journal, 2 issues of Pipeline, Annual Urological Excellence Conference information and discount on registration, UNC Membership Directory, UNC Constitution, UNC Standards of Urologic Nursing Practice and your personal access to UNC information if you require it. Visit their website www.unc.org.

For more information about UNC, contact: Angela Black, Membership Coordinator at blacka@ghh.kari.net or visit www.unc.org.

Help Wanted!
The UNC invites you to participate with some of the UNC initiatives including:
- Authors for Pipeline articles
- Nominations for the many UNC Awards

Public Impact

Urology Nurses of Canada is committed to promoting a healthy public policy. This year we have met with the Canadian Prostate Cancer Network and liasoned with the Canadian Continence Foundation in an endeavor to strongly support their work with the public.

As a result of the meeting with the Canadian Prostate Cancer Network we are encouraging members to get involved locally. Attend one or two of the Prostate Support Group meetings during the year as a visitor. They love to see you come. Besides you never know whom you will meet. I came away with a famous hockey autograph on one occasion. Join walks or other events to promote Prostate Cancer awareness. Set up a poster board in your hospital lobby. If you need literature visit your local Canadian Cancer Society or send for information via the Canadian Prostate Cancer Network website: www.cpcn.org. Many of the local groups have their own newsletters.

The prostate support groups are always looking for speakers. Presentations need only be simple and practical. If you want to be more ambitious write an article for “Our Voice” magazine. They are looking for nursing articles. The contact is Grant Loewen: grant.loewen@sympatico.ca

November is Incontinence month across Canada. I am encouraging all members to do something locally. Once again set up a booth in your hospital, speak to a seniors group, present to other nurses. Incontinence affects 3 million people in Canada. There has got to be someone you know whom you can talk to and help. Each year The Canadian Continence Foundation helps promote events and if you need corporate sponsorship ask. The Canadian Continence Foundation has a wealth of literature and information if you require it. Visit their website www.continence-fdn.ca.

Prostate Cancer Websites

Here is a list of useful and worthwhile websites regarding Prostate Cancer:

- www.cpcn.org
- www.prostatebulletin.com
- www.pcacoalition.org
- www.theurologychannel
- www.caprostate.com
- www.mayohealth.org
- www.canadian-prostate.com
- www.canadian-health-network.ca
- www.prostateresearch.ca