



Registered Nurses  
Professional Development Centre

Room 231C Bethune Building  
1276 South Park Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 2Y9

## **Orientation to the Canadian Health Care System for Internationally Educated Health Care Professionals**

### **What is the program?**

The Registered Nurses Professional Development Centre (RNPDC) partnered with the College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia (CRNNS) and the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS) (formerly the Metropolitan Immigration Settlement Association and the Halifax Immigrant Learning Centre) to assist internationally educated health care professionals to navigate the steps toward establishing community integration and employment in Nova Scotia. As a result, in 2005, the RNPDC developed the program *Orientation to the Canadian Health Care System for Internationally Educated Health Care Professionals*. This program was revised and updated in the 2014.

### **What is the goal of the program?**

The *Orientation to the Canadian Health Care System for Internationally Educated Health Professionals* program is designed to assist internationally educated health care professionals with current concepts, issues and professional practices in Canada. The content is applicable for internationally educated health care professionals preparing for licensure in the Maritime Provinces. The program focuses on an introduction to the Canadian health care system at federal and provincial levels; Canadian health care professionals and their practice; culture, diversity and cultural competence; Canadian ethical and legal issues in health care; safety and quality improvement in Canadian healthcare; and current health care issues in Canada.

### **What are the learning outcomes for the program?**

1. Describe the delivery of Canadian health care at federal and provincial levels.
2. Identify the various health care professionals in Canada, along with their roles and responsibilities.
3. Describe various concepts related to health care professional practice in Canada, such as reflective practice, interprofessional practice, conflict management and professionalism.
4. Discuss issues in health care involving culture, diversity and cultural competence as they apply to working in Canada.
5. Develop knowledge of ethical and legal issues in Canadian health care practice.
6. Describe the importance of safety and quality improvement, as they relate to working in Canadian health care settings.
7. Develop knowledge of current health care issues in Canada

## **Who should apply?**

Internationally Educated Health Care Professionals who want to be employed in the health care system. CLB language levels of 6 and over (or equivalent) are required.

## **When does this program take place?**

The program is offered on an as-needed basis; however, the program is usually offered in the Fall or Spring.

## **Who do I contact for more information and an application?**

Sheila Paris  
Secretary, RNPDC  
Phone 902-473-2175  
Email: [sheila.paris@nshealth.ca](mailto:sheila.paris@nshealth.ca)

## **What is the cost of the program?**

Course Materials Fee is \$75.00 CAN

## **What does the program look like?**

The program consists of seven on-line self study lessons and two online classroom sessions. The program is self-directed; however, a learning plan that will guide study on a weekly basis is provided. Specific lessons and learning activities must be completed by set dates and prior to the classroom sessions.

### **Lesson 1: Canadian Health Care System – Federal**

This lesson introduces the concept of health describing how it has changed over the years and influenced health care in Canada. As a new health care professional working in Canada it is important to understand how the health care system works and the principles upon which it is based. In this lesson time is also spent looking at some of the major health issues faced by Canadians. At the end of the lesson many of the concepts discussed will be tied together by exploring the performance of the Canadian Health Care System.

### **Lesson 2: Canadian Health Care System – Provincial**

This lesson begins by looking at the provincial health department in the Maritime Provinces. This includes what are the main outcomes hoped to be met by the provincial health department in the next few years; how health authorities are set up; provincial

health programs and community resources available; and the main health issues of the people living in each province.

### **Lesson 3: Canadian Health Care Professionals and Their Practice**

This lesson focuses on the key roles health professionals play in the lives of Canadians. Health care professionals provide safe and effective care to individuals, families and communities. They are self-regulating professions with codes of ethics, standards of practice and clear scopes of practice. As health care professionals in Canada, there are various concepts which need to be applied in day-to-day practice including those of professionalism, reflective practice, client-centred care, interprofessional practice and conflict management.

### **Lesson 4: Culture, Diversity and Cultural Competence**

This lesson focuses on learning approaches to achieve cultural competence as a key responsibility for all health care professionals. An overview of major cultural groups in the Maritimes will assist health care professionals coming to Canada in getting to know these unique cultures.

### **Lesson 5: Ethical and Legal Issues in Canadian Health Care**

Being a health care professional means having an ethical contract with clients and other members of the health care team. This requires a high standard of ethical behaviour and a commitment to professional practice. This lesson focuses on the knowledge required by health care professionals in terms of ethical responsibilities; and legal guidelines and responsibilities for their profession.

### **Lesson 6: Safety and Quality Improvement in Canadian Health Care**

Quality improvement is about preventing things from going wrong and trying to determine what can be made better. An issue closely tied to quality improvement is client safety. Health care professionals are major players in being aware of and ensuring safety in all aspects of the health care environment, as well as in promoting quality in day-to-day work. This lesson focuses on how health care professionals can participate in providing safe practice. In addition, an overview of several organizations who promote safety and quality improvement in Canadian health care settings is provided.

### **Lesson 7: Current Health Care Issues in Canada**

One main focus of this lesson is to provide an overview of hospice palliative care in Canada. In hospice palliative care, it is essential to treat the client, family/significant others together as one unit. Losing a family member or friend can be a difficult journey and health care professionals can play a vital role in this journey at the end of life. The second section in this lesson focuses on some health issues which are common in Canada.

