



POSITION STATEMENT ON CORE COMPETENCIES FOR HIV/AIDS NURSING EDUCATION AT THE UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

Background

It is the position of the Canadian Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (CANAC) that the quality of the care provided to people with HIV/AIDS directly relates to and depends upon the adequate and appropriate preparation of nursing students. It is our belief that such outcomes also depend on the integration of core competencies in HIV/AIDS nursing care to undergraduate curriculums across the country. Along with the International Council of Nurses (2009), we argue that all undergraduate nursing curriculums should integrate up-to-date information about HIV/AIDS, including discussions about transmission, prevention, testing, diagnosis, treatment, counselling, and care in both biomedical and psychosocial realms. As part of this, CANAC supports the inclusion of educational strategies that rely on a comprehensive description of the broader social, cultural, political, and historical contexts within which HIV/AIDS is located, and the adequate/appropriate preparation of future nurses that will enable them to fulfill their professional responsibilities and obligations including the duty and responsibility to provide care for people living with HIV and AIDS.

Position Statement

The Canadian Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (CANAC) recommends that all undergraduate nursing programs include a minimum of 6 to 12 hours of theoretical content on HIV/AIDS nursing. We also recommend that elective courses in HIV/AIDS nursing be developed and offered in high prevalence areas. In addition, clinical experience in HIV/AIDS nursing be integrated to the curriculum in sectors where this is feasible and that undergraduate students get the opportunity to work with people living with HIV/AIDS during clinical rotations. CANAC recommends essential education in HIV/AIDS nursing for all undergraduate nursing students in Canada. As such it is the position of CANAC that core competencies in HIV/AIDS nursing care be integrated to undergraduate curriculums across the country. The implementation of these core competencies is of utmost importance to ensure that future generations of nurses are prepared to provide care to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Core Competencies

1. HIV prevention, testing, treatment, and care
2. Psychosocial, spiritual, ethical, and legal issues related to HIV/AIDS
3. Psychomotor skills necessary to provide HIV/AIDS nursing care
4. Professional expectations required in the delivery of HIV/AIDS nursing care

Reference

International Council of Nurses (ICN) (2009). Position Statement on HIV Infection and AIDS. Retrieved from: <http://www.icn.ch>.

