Changes to Certified Practice Competency and Decision Support Tool Documents

Key Messages

- Since stepping into certified practice DST stewardship in 2020, NNPBC has received significant feedback from certified practice nurses, educators, and provincial leaders regarding the Competencies and Decision Support Tools (DSTs) for certified practice.

- In response to this feedback, Certified Practice DST Working Group members and the NNPBC Professional Practice Team identified that there was significant overlap and duplication across DSTs, as well as a need to update content across every DST.

- The NNPBC Professional Practice team and the Certified Practice Competencies Working Group also identified the need to amalgamate the four existing competency documents for certified practice into a single, unified competency document.

- Given the significant number of changes required across all documents, a decision was made to approach changes to the Competencies and DSTs for certified practice in two phases. Phase 1 is focused on migration of existing content to a new framework for DSTs. Phase 2 is focused on content revision and is guided by the NNPBC *Certified Practice DST Stewardship Plan*.

Phase 1: Migrating *Existing* Content to New DST Framework and Unifying Competencies

- The Certified Practice DST Steering Committee approved a new framework for certified practice DSTs, which clearly articulates the different types of documents that make up the DSTs for Certified Practice and the unique purpose of each DST.

- The new framework is designed to eliminate duplicate content and streamline DSTs to increase clinical utility and ease of use. The new framework specifies two types of DST documents: *Assessment and Diagnostic Guidelines* and *Care and Treatment Plans*.

- Table 1 below provides more detail on the new framework and document types. Please note: there are no changes to content in Phase 1.

- Table 2 below provides an overview on how the existing DSTs are changing under the new framework.

- A unified certified practice Competency document has been created to replace the existing four separate competency documents for each certified practice area. The new document articulates competencies that are beyond entry-level practice and that constitute the expanded scope of all certified practice nurses. The new Competency document also identifies competencies that are unique to each area of certified practice.

- The revised Competency and DST documents will be posted on the NNPBC website on December 1, 2023 for 90 days before coming into effect on March 1, 2024.

Phase 2: DST Content Revision

- Phase 2 is focused on content revisions for all DSTs, including integration of current evidence and updates to practice guidance.

- Phase 2 will commence in January 2024 and will follow the DST revision cycle established in the NNPBC *Certified Practice DST Stewardship Plan*.

- Content change request received during Phase 1 continue to be tracked and will be used to inform content revisions in Phase 2.

- NNPBC continues to make rapid changes to DSTs as needed to align with and respond to changing regulatory and practice needs.

Table 1. Certified Practice DST Framework

Clinical Decision Support Tools (DST) – Refers to the suite of tools developed and maintained by the Association of Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of British Columbia (NNPBC) that guide and articulate the scope of the practice of Certified Practice Registered Nurses. Clinical Decision Support Tools are built on the foundational competencies for Certified Practice Registered Nurse practice and align with the legislative and regulatory framework governing this practice.

Below are the tools that fall under the umbrella of 'DST'.

Tool	Purpose	Content
Assessment and Diagnostic Guideline	Outlines foundational knowledge related to conducting assessments and diagnostic tests to inform the diagnosis of a disease, disorder or condition and the treatment and/or management of care.	- History - General assessment - System specific assessment - Diagnostics/screening - Considerations for affected populations - When consultation and referral needed (as reminder re: limits to scope of practice / age in some cases) - Causes and predisposing factors of specific conditions *Assessment and Diagnostic Guidelines include both text and visual algorithms
Care and Treatment Plan	Outlines defined methods for the treatment and/or management of care for specific circumstances or conditions, as diagnosed and/or assessed by a Certified Practice RN.	- Condition management and treatment (pharmacological or non-pharmacological) - Criteria for consultation and referrals - Client education - Documentation - Monitoring and follow-up requirements - Considerations for specific populations - Reference to non-certified DSTs for differential diagnosis *Care and Treatment Plans include both text and visual algorithms

Table 2: Overview of Streamlined Documents

Current Framework	New Framework
Competency Documents: n=4 Assessment DSTs: n=19 Condition Specific DSTs: n=34	Competency Documents: n=1 Assessment and Diagnostic Guideline: n= 8 Care & Treatment Plans: n=25
RN First Call Competencies	Certified Practice Registered Nurse Competencies (all certified practice areas)
Remote Nursing Competencies	
Contraceptive Management Competencies	
STI Competencies	
N/A (general assessment/history content covered across multiple DSTs)	DST 100: Assessment and Diagnostic Guideline: General (RN First Call and Remote Nursing)
DST-FC-101: Eye Assessment Adult DST-RN-101: Eye Assessment Adult	DST 200: Assessment and Diagnostic Guideline: Eyes (RN First Call and Remote Nursing)
DST-FC-102: Eye Assessment Pediatric DST-RN-102: Eye Assessment Pediatric	
DST 103: Corneal Abrasion Minor Adult	DST 201: Care and Treatment Plan: Corneal Abrasion (RN First Call and Remote Nursing)
DST 104: Corneal Abrasion Minor Pediatric	
DST 105: Conjunctivitis Adult	DST 202: Care and Treatment Plan: Conjunctivitis (RN First Call and Remote Nursing)
DST 106: Conjunctivitis Pediatric	
DST-FC-201: Ear Nose & Throat Assessment Adult DST-RN-201: Ear Nose & Throat Assessment Adult	DST 300: Assessment and Diagnostic Guideline: Ear, Nose & Throat (RN First Call and Remote Nursing)
DST-FC-202: Ear Nose & Throat Assessment Adult DST-RN-202: Ear Nose & Throat Assessment Adult	
DST 203: Otitis Media Acute Adult	DST 301: Care and Treatment Plan: Otitis Media (RN First Call and Remote Nursing)
DST 204: Otitis Media Acute Pediatric	
DST 205: Pharyngitis Adult	DST 302: Care and Treatment Plan: Pharyngitis (RN First Call and Remote Nursing)
DST 206: Pharyngitis Pediatric	
DST 301: Dental Abscess Adult	DST 303: Care and Treatment Plan: Dental Abscess Adult (RN First Call and Remote Nursing)

DST 302: Lower UTI Adult Female	DST 501: Care and Treatment Plan: UTI (RN First Call and Remote Nursing)
DST-FC-401: Cardio-Respiratory Assessment Adult DST-RN-401: Cardio-Respiratory Assessment Adult DST-FC-402: Cardio-Respiratory Assessment Pediatric DST-RN-402: Cardio-Respiratory Assessment Pediatric	DST 400: Assessment and Diagnostic Guideline: Cardio-Respiratory (RN First Call and Remote Nursing)
DST 403: Bronchitis Acute Adult	DST 401: Care and Treatment Plan: Bronchitis Acute Adult (Remote Nursing)
DST-FC- 501: GI GU Assessment Adult DST-RN- 501: GI GU Assessment Adult DST 502: GI GU Assessment Pediatric	DST 500: Assessment and Diagnostic Guideline: GI GU (RN First Call and Remote Nursing)
DST 601: Lower UTI Adult DST 602: Lower UTI Pediatric	DST 501: Care and Treatment Plan: UTI (RN First Call and Remote Nursing)
DST 701: Integumentary Assessment Adult DST 702: Integumentary Assessment Pediatric	DST 600: Assessment and Diagnostic Guideline: Integumentary (Remote Nursing)
DST 703: Cellulitis Adult DST 704: Cellulitis Pediatric	DST 601: Care and Treatment Plan: Cellulitis (Remote Nursing)
DST 705: Impetigo Adult DST 706: Impetigo Pediatric	DST 602: Care and Treatment Plan: Impetigo (Remote Nursing)
DST 707: Bites & Scratches Adult DST: 708 Bites & Scratches Pediatric	DST 603: Care and Treatment Plan: Bites & Scratches (Remote Nursing)
DST 709: Localized Abscess and Furuncle Adult	DST 604: Care and Treatment Plan: Localized Abscess and Furuncle Adult (Remote Nursing)
DST 710: Ceruminosis (Impacted Cerumen: Adult)	DST 304: Care and Treatment Plan: Ceruminosis (Impacted Cerumen: Adult) (Remote Nursing)
DST 801: Use of Nitrous Oxide/Oxygen in Pain Management: Adult	DST 701: Care and Treatment Plan: Use of Nitrous Oxide/Oxygen in Pain Management: Adult (Remote Nursing)

DST 900: Contraceptive Management Assessment	DST 800: Assessment and Diagnostic Guideline: Contraceptive Management (Reproductive Health – Contraceptive Management)
DST 901: Combined Hormonal Contraceptives	DST 801: Care and Treatment Plan - Combined Hormonal Contraceptives (Reproductive Health – Contraceptive Management
DST 902: Progestin-Only Hormonal Contraceptives	DST 802: Care and Treatment Plan - Progestin-Only Hormonal Contraceptives (Reproductive Health – Contraceptive Management)
DST 1001: STI Assessment	DST 900: Assessment and Diagnostic Guideline: STI (Reproductive Health – STI)
DST 1002: Treatment of STI Contacts	DST 901: Care and Treatment Plan: Treatment of STI Contacts (Reproductive Health – STI)
DST 1004: Urethritis	DST 902: Care and Treatment Plan: Urethritis (Reproductive Health – STI)
DST 1005: Recurrent Urethritis	DST 903: Care and Treatment Plan: Recurrent Urethritis (Reproductive Health – STI)
DST 1006: Bacterial Vaginosis	DST 904: Care and Treatment Plan: Bacterial Vaginosis (Reproductive Health – STI)
DST 1007: Mucopurulent Cervicitis	DST 905: Care and Treatment Plan: Mucopurulent Cervicitis (Reproductive Health – STI)
DST 1008: Gonorrhea	DST 906: Care and Treatment Plan: Gonorrhea (Reproductive Health – STI)
DST 1009: Genital Warts	DST 907 Care and Treatment Plan: Genital Warts (Reproductive Health – STI)
DST 1010: Chlamydia Trachomatis	DST 908: Care and Treatment Plan: Chlamydia Trachomatis (Reproductive Health – STI)
DST 1011: Trichomoniasis	DST 909 Care and Treatment Plan: Trichomoniasis (Reproductive Health – STI)
DST 1012: Uncomplicated Lower UTI	DST 910: Care and Treatment Plan: Uncomplicated Lower UTI (Reproductive Health – STI)