

Forensic Nursing Overview, Scope and Standards, Roles in Canada

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Objectives

- ▶ Provide overview of Forensic Nursing development in Canada and globally
- ▶ Describe Forensic Nurse roles in Canada
- ▶ Discuss Forensic Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice

Forensic Nursing

“The practice of nursing globally when health care and legal systems intersect”

*International Association of Forensic Nurses
September 2008*

“Forensic” comes from Latin word “forensis” meaning “of or before the forum”

Legal or related to the courts is now accepted as meaning of forensics

Forensic Nursing

- ▶ Specialty of nursing which combines the forensic aspects of health care with scientific investigation and treatment of survivors/victims and perpetrators of abuse, violence, criminal activity and accidents.

Collision

Nursing/Medicine/ and Law Enforcement
and /Legal/ Judicial Systems

Forensic Nursing Globally

- ▶ Florence Nightingale may well be considered the first forensic nurse!
- ▶ Nurses in the United Kingdom worked in forensic psychiatry and mental health before World War II
- ▶ Nurses in USA became the first sexual assault nurse examiners in 1976
- ▶ Other forensic nurses worked in forensic psychiatric units, forensic correctional units

Forensic Nursing Globally

- ▶ Until mid 1980's nurses working in forensic fields were working in isolation
- ▶ 1986 a paper by Virginia Lynch at American Academy of Forensic Scientists proposed a formal program in forensic nursing based on her master's thesis depicting a forensic nursing model

Forensic Nursing: Time Line in Canada

- ▶ 1975 Dr. John Butt hires registered nurses to investigate deaths in Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- ▶ 1986 Virginia Lynch develops her Forensic Nursing Model
- ▶ 1992 International Association of Forensic Nurses formed. Two Canadian nurses from Winnipeg, Manitoba attended, thus “International”

Forensic Nursing: Time Line in Canada

- ▶ 1992 Winnipeg, Manitoba and Surrey, BC start development of first Canadian sexual assault nurse examiner programs ie SANE
- ▶ 1995 American Nurses Association recognizes Forensic Nursing as a specialty
- ▶ 1995 Ontario Network for Sexual Assault Care Centers added nurse examiners to the provincial network

Forensic Nursing: Time Line in Canada

- ▶ 2000 1st Canadian IAFN conference held in Calgary, Alberta
- ▶ 2006 2nd Canadian IAFN conference held in Vancouver, BC
- ▶ 2007 Canadian Nurses Association recognizes forensic nursing as a special interest group with the formation of the Forensic Nurses Society of Canada (Cathy Carter Snell, Janet Calnan, Kathleen Soltys, Sheila Early co founders)
- ▶ 2009 Cindy Peternelj–Taylor first Canadian Editor of Journal of Forensic Nursing (IAFN publication)

Forensic Nursing: Time Line in Canada

- ▶ **2011 Forensic Nurses Society of Canada becomes the first Affiliate of International Association of Forensic Nurses**
- ▶ **2011 3rd Canadian IAFN conference held in Montreal, QC**
- ▶ **2014 Sheila Early 1st Canadian elected President of IAFN**

Forensic Nursing: Time Line in Canada

- ▶ 2016 Core Curriculum for Forensic Nursing published by IAFN
- ▶ 2017 Elizabeth Loudon 2nd Canadian elected President IAFN and 4th Canadian IAFN conference in Toronto, On Oct 11-14

What makes a Forensic Nurse?

Professional Nurse Education + Forensic
Science Education + Forensic Nursing
Education

=

“ A professional nurse trained to
provide care and treatment to the
victims both the living and the
dead, of violent crime or traumatic
events”

Forensic Nursing: a concise manual by Donna M Garbacz Bader and Sue
Gabriel 2010 Page 7

Key Components of the Forensic Nurse

- ▶ Identification of trauma (assessment)
- ▶ Investigation
- ▶ Documentation (history) pertaining to the incident (intervention)
- ▶ Collection of evidence (specimens/samples)
- ▶ Post investigative review (evaluation) (Lynch 2005)

Clinical Forensic Nursing

- ▶ Innovative expansion of nursing role as an evolving specialty globally
- ▶ Multidisciplinary nature of care for victims of crime, trauma and violence
- ▶ “Address previously unmet needs during the time they are caring for the patient, often in close, exclusive contact” (Lynch)

“Encompasses living patients: the victims, the accused and the condemned”

Virginia Lynch 2005 Forensic Nursing

Forensic Nurse

“Forensic Nurse must be unbiased and value neutral in all matters: an advocate for truth and justice”

Virginia Lynch Forensic Nursing 2005

“Living Forensics”

More than Death Investigation

- Interpersonal Violence
- Forensic Mental Health
- Correctional Nursing
- Legal Nurse Consulting
- Emergency/Trauma Services
- Public Health and Safety
- Death Investigation
- Mass Disasters

Roles

- ▶ Forensic Nurse Examiner /Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner across the lifespan
Pediatric/Adolescent/Adult/Elder
- ▶ Emergency/Critical Care Nursing
- ▶ Peri operative Nursing
- ▶ Clinical Forensic Nurse Specialist

Roles

- ▶ Forensic Correctional Psychiatric Nurse
- ▶ Forensic Mental Health Nurse
- ▶ Forensic Youth Services Nurse
- ▶ Forensic Nurse Consultant
- ▶ Forensic Nurse Investigator

Roles

- ▶ Legal Nurse Consultant
- ▶ Nurse Coroner/ Medical Examiner
- ▶ Claims Reviewer Workplace Safety
- ▶ Forensic Nurse Educator
- ▶ Researcher

Forensic Nursing Scope and Standards

- ▶ No Canadian Standards to date
- ▶ Default to International Scope and Standards IAFN 2009 (in review currently)
- ▶ 15 Standards of Practice
 - Assessment, Diagnosis, Outcomes Identification, Planning, Implementation (Coordination of Care, Health Teachin and Health Promotion, Consultation, Prescriptive Authority and Treatment) Quality of Practice, Education, Professional Practice Evaluation, Collegiality, Collaboration, Ethics, Research, Resource Utilization and Leadership.

So, why do I as a nurse need to know about Forensic Evidence

- ▶ “physical or trace evidence that can be scientifically matched with a known individual or item”
- ▶ If properly obtained and examined can be powerful and reliable evidence in any type of trauma, violence or crime
- ▶ Nurses care for patients who are victims of trauma, violence or crime OR are the perpetrators

Example One

Example Two

Example Three

References and Resources

Forensic Nursing Science 2nd Edition Virginia A. Lynch with Janet Barber Duval Elsevier Mosby 2011 ISBN number 978-0-323-06637-2

Forensic Nursing; a concise manual. Donna M. Garbacz and Sue Gabriel CRC Press 2010 ISBN No. 13-978-1-4200-6739-9

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ISBN no. 323-02826-8

Forensic Nursing: A Handbook for Practice

Rita M. Hammer/ Barbara Moynihan/Elaine M. Pagliaro Jones and Bartlett Publishers 2006 ISBN no. 0-7637-2610-9

Forensic Nursing Evidence–Evidence Based Principles and Practice

Rose E. Constantino, Patricia A. Crane, Susan E. Young F. A. Davis Company 2013 ISBN No. 978-0-8036-2185-5

Thank You

Forensic Nursing: Change Agent in Canadian Health care

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