

# Open Letter to Nurses April/May 2007 Think you know nursing?



Of course *you* know nursing, but what do others know about the roles of nurses? That's food for thought during this year's National Nursing Week and an opportunity for all of us to explain our work to others.

First, I need to tell you about a program the WRHA is launching in April that can help you develop your inner leader.

The Nursing Leadership Development Program is an exciting online tool that will help you assess, enhance, develop and evaluate your own nursing leadership competencies. This is the first online program of its kind in Canada.

The Program was created with the support of WRHA Nursing Leadership Council in response to an increasing amount of difficulty in recruiting nurse managers to regional sites and programs. It is designed to support nurse leaders who desire to practice competently and safely in our rapidly changing health care system. *Every* nurse has the opportunity to lead within their role.

Working through the Program gives you the opportunity to assess your skills, identify an area of focus, develop and execute a learning plan, and re-evaluate your progress. Tools from the self-assessment portion of the Program can be used to fulfill the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba's continuing competence documentation requirements.

The WHRA Nursing Leadership Council has chosen the Dorothy Wylie Nursing Leadership Framework as the framework to base our Nursing Leadership Development Program on. It delineates a conceptual framework that describes four evidence-based components that interact in a unique inter-related fashion and offers a logical structure for the articulation of leadership. It is comprised of four main components:

- Business of Health Care
- Competencies of Leadership
- Use of Self
- Profession of Nursing

The Program launches at First Line Managers Day on April 17, 2007. Visit [www.wrha.mb.ca/leadership](http://www.wrha.mb.ca/leadership) after April 17, 2007, and explore the Program for yourself.

## Don't miss out on this networking opportunity

The 14th National Conference on Gerontological Nursing will be held at the Winnipeg Convention Centre from May 2 to 5, 2007. Keynote speakers include:

- Sue Johanson, RN, sex educator and media personality
- Lorraine Mion, RN, Ph.D, Director of Nursing Services for Geriatrics, MetroHealth Medical Centre, Cleveland Ohio
- Anne Martin Mathews, Ph.D, Scientific Director, National Institute on Aging
- Lynne Mitchell Pederson, RN, BA, Ed.D, psychotherapist

Panels and pre-conference workshops feature a number of local presenters. It is not very often that Winnipeg gets to host a nursing conference of this size, and this is a great opportunity for you to learn about what is best practice and cutting edge in the care of older adults.

Register online at [www.cgna.net](http://www.cgna.net)

## Basic Life Support (BLS) update

You may have heard that there are new standards for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). These changes have caused Nursing Leadership Council and other professional groups to discuss our processes for certifying staff in CPR, as there are now several new levels of training available. CPR training is a skill offered to the general public and is integrated into training programs for students in nursing and other health care professional faculties. We remain committed to the need for broad public education in this area and are examining ways to integrate the levels of training into the various practice settings that provide patient care. Stay tuned for more information.

### Take a closer look at nursing

From May 7 to 13, we should encourage others to take a closer look at the people that make up the nursing profession. With over 7,000 registered nurses, registered psychiatric nurses and licensed practical nurses employed in the Winnipeg region, nurses are the largest group of health care providers in the city, and they're working hard to improve the health care system for all Manitobans.

Nurses are improving the health of Manitobans 24 hours a day, seven days a week by advocating for the citizens of our region, helping to implement the latest technologies, finding innovative ways to provide better care, and providing valuable leadership. If examined more closely, I think most people would be surprised at the diversity of nurses employed within the WRHA, and the complexity of the roles they carry.

Within the WRHA, our people are our greatest asset, and our nurses are a talented group of professionals. The WRHA Board of Directors and senior management team wants to thank each of you for your important contributions to the health care team, and they are proud of your many accomplishments this past year.

I look forward to celebrating this special week. For those of you who I will not see during my many visits, I hope you and your colleagues find time to recognize each other's achievements.

Look for a PowerPoint presentation acknowledging all the great work of the nurses in our region at the end of April on the nursing section of Insite.

I want to end the Open Letter with an excerpt from a letter received by a patient:

Dear. Dr. Postl:

Recently, I was discharged from the hospital following a bone marrow transplant. I cannot fully express my thoughts on how wonderful the entire staff of the department, from the cleaners to the nursing aides and staff nurses, was during this trying time.

Your knowledgeable, caring and considerate staff helped relieve the boredom of spending a month in hospital and created an intimate environment filled with laughter and levity. I will always be grateful to them for their kind support during this time.

Yours faithfully,

Sharon Johnston\*

\*Name changed to protect identity.

Keep sharing patient feedback with me. I enjoy hearing about the great work you're doing.

Sincerely,



Jan Currie, Vice-President and Chief Nursing Officer

Look for my next letter in June. I appreciate hearing your comments.

Submissions are welcome.

You can reach me via email at: [info@wrha.mb.ca](mailto:info@wrha.mb.ca); via fax at: (204) 926-7007; or mail to:

Jan Currie, Vice-President and Chief Nursing Officer

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