# Introduction to Communicable Disease Surveillance and Investigation in North Carolina





### **North Carolina Nursing Law**

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### **Learning Objectives**

- List the 2 legal references that compose the N.C. Nursing Practice Act
- Name the 4 most common nursing responsibilities of community health nurses
- List 2 uses of standing orders in public health nursing practice

#### **Nursing Practice Act**

- N.C. Law
  - Article 9AN.C. General Statues
  - Nursing Practice Act
- N.C. Rules
  - N.C. Administrative Code
  - Title 21 Chapter 36
  - Board of Nursing
- N.C. Board of Nursing
  - http://www.ncbon.com/

# Nursing in the Community Health Setting

- Licensed Personnel
  - Registered Nurses
  - Licensed Practical Nurses
  - Nurse Practitioners
- Unlicensed Personnel
  - Nurse Aides
  - Medical Office Assistants
  - Other Health Dept. Staff
  - Volunteers

### **Safe Nursing Practice**

#### N.C. Administrative Code (21 N.C. AC 36 .0224)

- Nurse's own qualifications
- Complexity and frequency of care
- Proximity of clients to personnel
- Qualifications and number of staff
- Accessible resources
- Established policies, procedures, practices, and channels of communication

# Responsibilities of the Registered Nurse

- Assessment
- Planning
- Implementation
- Evaluation
- Reporting and Recording

- Collaborating
- Teaching and Counseling
- Managing
- Administering
- Accepting Responsibility

# Behaviors and Activities That May Result in Disciplinary Action

Failure to make available to another health care professional any client information crucial to the safety of the client's health care;

# Behaviors and Activities That May Result in Disciplinary Action

Revealing identifiable data, or information obtained in a professional capacity, without prior consent of the client, except as authorized by law;

### Behaviors and Activities that may Result in Disciplinary Action

Delegating professional responsibilities to a person when the licensee delegating such responsibilities knows or has reason to know that such person is not qualified by training, by experience, or by licensure;

### Behaviors and Activities that may Result in Disciplinary Action

Nurse accountable for treatment & pharmaceutical regimen (recognizing side effects, toxic effects, allergic reactions, immediate desired effects, unusual & unexpected; contraindications, etc.)

21 NCAC 36 .0221

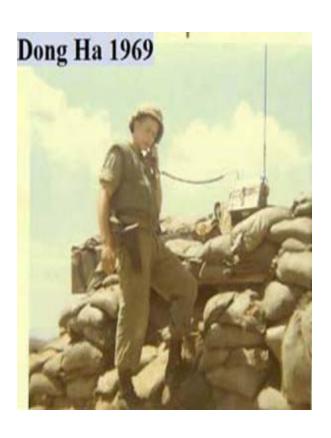
### Implications for Communicable Disease Nurses

Most CD Nurses will need continuous, special training in the program area to perform their professional duties safely and legally



Piece of cake, just have someway to take cover if you're informing a client they have an STD, especially if they are in an exclusive relationship.

## Implications for Communicable Disease Nurses



You want me to do what?

- It is the nurse's responsibility to accept or reject assignments
- It is the agency's responsibility to provide support and training to the nurse

### **Standing Orders**

- Remove barriers to care
- Signed instructions of a provider
- Describe the parameters under which a nurse may act
- Outline the assessment & interventions that a nurse(RN or LPN) may perform
- Must be in written, signed & dated by a provider with that authority under N.C. statutes

### **Standing Orders**

Must be reviewed and **signed** annually for necessary updates

Should be in N.C. Board of Nursing format

"Assures the use of a legal framework to allow nurses to take actions that would normally be outside their legal scope of practice."

 Policies, Procedures and Standing Orders/N.C.
 Communicable Disease Legal Conference/ Dr. Joy Reed/March 2012.

### Standing Orders can be used when

- Diagnosis is made via a standing order
- Actions are based on objective data
- No decision making is required in determining what action to take

### Standing Orders cannot be used when...

- Diagnosis is not determined by following a standing order
- Discrimination by the nurse beyond normal vs. abnormal is required
- Decision making by nurse is required

# Standing Orders may be frequently used with

- Administration of Immunizations
- Treatment of common health problems
- Health screening activities
- Occupational health services
- Public health clinical services
- Telephone triage & advice services

#### Continuation...

- Nurse on-call services
- Orders for lab test or treatments for certain categories of patients
- Frequently occurring orders implemented when indicated for specific patient populations, diagnoses, and symptoms.

#### References

- Nursing Practice Act, G.S. 90-171.20 (7)(f)
   & (8)(c)
- Standing Orders/Position Statement for RN and LPN Practice/N.C. Board of Nursing/ 2-2013/

http://www.ncbon.com/

#### **Ordinances and Rules**

- County or city ordinances i.e. Emergency Response or All-Hazards Plan
- Local Board of Health Rules

#### **Conclusion**

- N.C. Nursing Practice Act
- N.C. General Statutes
- N.C. Administrative Code
- County Ordinances
- Local Board of Health Rules
- Agency Policies and Procedures
- Standing Orders

#### References

- North Carolina Administrative Code, Board of Nursing. http://www.N.C.bon.com/Forms/N.C.AdminCode.pdf
- North Carolina General Assembly, General Statutes for Communicable Diseases.
  - http://www.N.C.leg.net/Statutes/GeneralStatutes/PDF/ByArticle/Chapter 130A/Article 6.pdf
- North Carolina General Assembly, General Statutes for Nursing Practice Act.
  - http://www.N.C.leg.net/Statutes/GeneralStatutes/PDF/ByArticle/Chapter 90/Article 9A.pdf