

**CATHOLIC RESIDENTIAL SERVICES, INC.  
PARISH NURSE PROGRAM**

**Scope of Practice for the Ministry of Parish Nursing Practice**

This position is designed to provide whole person health promotion disease prevention services with an emphasis on spiritual care. The major accountabilities and job activities of the parish nurse role are integrator of faith and health, health educator, personal health counselor, referral agent, developer of support groups, trainer of volunteers and health advocate.

**I. Roles**

A. Integrator of faith and health

1. Assesses Parish's assets and needs incorporating an understanding of the relationship between faith and health.
2. Attends meetings of the staff of the Parish.
3. Identifies opportunities to enhance the understanding of the relationship of faith and health within the Parish.
4. Fosters, promotes, and provides opportunities for spiritual care to be discussed and integrated into the parish nurse role documenting spiritual care of groups and individuals.
5. Participates in the planning and providing of prayer and worship life of the Parish.
6. Teaches and models the integration of faith and health into daily life.

B. Personal Health Advisor

1. Provides individual health counseling related to health maintenance, disease prevention or illness patterns.
2. Encourages the client through presence and spiritual support to express their faith beliefs and utilize them regularly especially in time of crisis and despair.
3. Documents client assessment, nursing diagnosis, interventions and outcomes while maintaining confidential client record in accordance with the policy on documentation.
4. Makes visits to clients as needed providing health counseling, education and spiritual presence/support.
5. Promotes stewardship of the body emphasizing self care of the whole person.

6. Collaborates with pastoral staff to plan for health education programming.
7. Communicates with other health professionals as needed to meet the health needs of clients.

C. Health Educator

1. Utilizes information from asset and needs assessments of the Parish and surrounding community in planning for education programs.
2. Prepares, develops and/or coordinates educational programs based on identified needs for healthier lifestyles, early illness detection and health resources.
3. Maintains records of educational programs, including objectives, content, evaluation, attendance and budget.
4. Documents individual educational assessment, interventions and outcomes.
5. Provides the Pastor, health committee of the Parish, and other designated parties a summary evaluation of educational programs noting attendance and response of participants.
6. Networks with appropriate resources in the community to secure educational program resources.
7. Provides consultation and acts as a health resource to staff of the Parish.

D. Coordinate Volunteers

1. Identifies and recruits professional and lay volunteers who can be available to respond to the health related needs of members of the Parish.
2. Facilitates and when appropriate, trains individuals to assume volunteer responsibilities to meet identified needs of the Parish.
3. Works with staff, health committee or others focusing on the integration of health into the life of the Parish.
4. Complies with all screening requirements including all background checks for volunteers required and conducted by the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and the Diocese of La Crosse Safe Environment Program.

E. Developer of Support Groups

1. Develops and/or facilitates support groups based on identified needs and resources.
2. Identifies available support groups in the community that could resource the Parish.
3. Refers and documents client participation in designated support groups.

F. Referral Agent

1. Provides and documents referrals to health care services and resources within the Parish and external community.
2. Collaborates with community leaders and agencies to facilitate effective working relationships while identifying new health resources.
3. Develops community contacts in order to secure resources and services to meet the needs of members of the Parish.
4. Networks with other parish nurses and professionals.

G. Health Advocate

1. Encourages clients to avail themselves of services, which will enhance their overall well being, assisting the clients in identifying values, and choices, which encourage them to be more responsible for their health status.
2. Assists client and client families in making decisions regarding their health, medical services, treatments and care facilities as well as documenting assessments, interventions and outcomes.
3. Identifies, communicates, and works cooperatively with community leaders, elected officials, and agencies to meet health needs of members of the Parish and surrounding community.

## **II. Other Activities**

### **A. Management**

1. Prepares an operating budget for program development as needed.
2. Develops reports regarding parish nurse activities as needed.
3. Collaborates with others in developing and managing grant projects.
4. Coordinates parish nurse programming in the Parish.
5. Maintain proficient documents

### **B. Professional Development, Education and Research**

1. Participates in continuing education programs to meet identified professional learning needs.
2. Participates in regular personal spiritual formation.
3. Acts as a preceptor to students from schools of nursing, seminaries and other disciplines as requested.
4. Develops and/or participates in research related to parish nursing.
5. Develops and submits articles for publication on experiences in parish nursing.

## **III. Services Parish Nurses do not perform**

1. A parish nurse is not a physician, and will not diagnose or treat illness.
2. A parish nurse is not a home health nurse, and will not dispense medications or provide treatments prescribed by a physician.
3. A parish nurse is not a therapist, and will not do physical therapy, occupational therapy, or psychotherapy.
4. A parish nurse is not a clergy person. All parish nurses come to the field with a deep spiritual commitment.

#### IV. Professional Requirements

	<b>Competent Level Qualifications</b>	<b>Minimum Level Qualifications</b>
Skills	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Organizing Skill</li><li>2. Basic computer skills</li><li>3. Excellent communication skills</li><li>4. Ability to develop reports</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Excellent communication skills</li><li>2. Organizing skills</li></ol>
Education and Experience	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. BSN require</li><li>2. 5+ years experience in med-surg</li><li>3. Community health nursing experience desirable</li><li>4. Ability to do community assessments</li><li>5. Ability to do health counseling</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. BS preferred</li><li>2. 5 years clinical nursing experience</li><li>3. Assessment skills</li></ol>
Professional Preparation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Current license as a registered nurse in the state the Parish is located.</li><li>2. Completion of a basic preparation course in parish nursing based on the standardized core curriculum of the International Parish Nurse Resource Center.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Current license as a registered nurse in the state the Parish is located.</li></ol>
Special Job	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Spiritual leadership as evidenced by experience Characteristics in Parish ministries, lay leadership, theological education and other related spiritual development.</li><li>2. Substantial weekend and evening work.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Works well independently and yet can function well as part of a work team.</li><li>2. Has a good understanding of spirituality and religiosity.</li></ol>