Archdiocese of Seattle
Faith Community Nursing Policy

Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 
...for the temple of God, which you are, is holy.”
-I Corinthians 3:16-17

I. The following policies have been developed to assist pastoral leadership, parish staff and
volunteers to provide quality Health Ministry to faith communities in the Archdiocese
of Seattle.

II. What is Faith Community Nursing (FCN)?
The purpose of FCN (sometimes referred to as Parish Nursing or Parish Health
Ministry) is to assist pastoral teams in faith-based whole person health and healing
outreach to members of the faith community.

Faith Community nurses are licensed, registered nurses who practice wholistic faith
health for self, individuals and the community using nursing knowledge combined
with spiritual care. They function in paid and unpaid positions as members of the
pastoral team in variety of religious faiths, cultures, and countries. The focus of their
work is on the intentional care of the spirit, assisting the members of the faith
community to maintain and/or regain wholeness in body, mind, and spirit. (Church
Health Center, www.churchhealthcenter.org)

FCN supports programs and health services that are already available in the
community. FCN seeks to augment, not replace, existing services and programs.

A. Faith Community Nursing DOES:
• Practice under the Scope and Standards of Practice for Faith Community
  Nursing (see appendix)
• Integrate faith and healing
• Assist with health education (health fairs, bulletin inserts, etc.)
• Educate parishioners about healthy lifestyle choices
• May provide non-invasive health screenings (i.e., blood pressure clinics)
• Assist people to understand a diagnosis and treatment options
• Advocate for health services within the community
• Assist members of the parish community obtain appropriate health
  services
• Visit parish members at home or in the hospital
• Provide the contact information for the county’s Department of Health
  (see appendix)
• Develop support groups – facilitate groups with identified needs in the parish community (e.g., cancer survivors, weight loss support, mental health support, etc.)
• Recruit, train and oversee health minister volunteers.
  ▪ Volunteers may transport parishioners to doctor appointments, prepare and deliver meals to ailing members of the parish community and provide other services as needed and appropriate.
  ▪ All non-RN employees/volunteers must have professional experience in the ministry in which they are participating.

B. Faith Community Nursing **DOES NOT:**
• Administer blood drawing
• Provide medical diagnosis
• Provide medical treatments
• Change dressings
• Provide injections or dispensing of medications (except Narcan)
• Provide any mental health therapy (counseling), spiritual direction, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or other forms of direct therapy
• Act as a home health care nurse

C. Record Keeping:
• All records are kept confidential between the client/parishioner and the Faith Community Nurse.
• All electronic records must be password protected; all paper records must be kept in a locked cabinet.
• The Faith Community Nurse reports to the pastor or a person the pastor delegates to supervise FCN. The person delegated does not have to have a nursing background.
• Confidentiality needs to be maintained. FCN may not share any health information with anyone unless the client has given permission to release this information. Any breaches of confidentiality need to be reported immediately by the supervisor to the Archdiocesan Director for Pastoral Care (206-382-4847). If confidentiality is breached deliberately by FCN, the person who breaches the information may be subject to disciplinary action up to termination of the position.

III. Qualifications for a Faith Community Nurse:
(Note: It is the responsibility of the parish to make sure all of the following requirements are completed by the Faith Community Nurse):
• Have an active registered nurse (RN) license in Washington State. A Licensed Practicing Nurse (LPN) has to be supervised by an RN and can’t offer services directly without the assistance of an RN present. An LPN cannot use the title “Faith Community Nurse.” Credential checks are the responsibility of the parish.
While we will accept the volunteer Retired Providers Certification, it is preferred that the Faith Community Nurse maintain their RN license (if it isn’t cost prohibitive)

- Be in compliance with Archdiocesan policy, including safe-environment policies. [http://www.seattlearchsep.org/](http://www.seattlearchsep.org/)
- Successfully complete a criminal background check prior to providing ministry in the Archdiocese. [http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/Assets/HR/110_VolunteerBCRequest.pdf](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/Assets/HR/110_VolunteerBCRequest.pdf)
- Be a graduate of an accredited training program for Faith Community Nursing (see appendix).
- Provide evidence of liability insurance
- Provide appropriate resources on how to protect vulnerable adults in Western Washington. Please see Washington State Department of Social and Health Services Adult Abuse and Prevention site, [http://www.adsa.dshs.wa.gov/APS/](http://www.adsa.dshs.wa.gov/APS/)
- Faith Community Nurses are required to be familiar with the following document (Note: Archdiocese of Seattle, Pastoral Care Ministry will provide this document at no cost to the Faith Community Nurse).
  - Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services; Fifth Edition
    United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
    Website: [http://www.usccb.org/](http://www.usccb.org/)
Appendix:

In-Person Trainings Available for Faith Community Nurses:
- Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA
  Contact: Audrey Cox – (253) 535-7683
- University of Portland, Portland, OR
  Contact: Sandy Madsen – (503) 681-1364 or sandy.madsen@tuality.org

On-Line Self Study Trainings Available for Faith Community Nurses:
- PeaceHealth St. Joseph’s Medical Center, Bellingham, WA
  Contact: Jeanne Brotherton – (360) 788-6408 or jbrotherton@peacehealth.org or clindberg@peacehealth.org

American Nurse Association
http://www.nursesbooks.org/Homepage/Hot-off-the Press/Faith-Community-Nursing.aspx

Catholic Health Association
Sister Carol Keehan, DC, President
1875 Eye St., NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20006-5409 Phone: (202) 296-3993
Email: http://www.chausa.org/Pub/Email/emailnosterholt.htm
Website: http://www.chausa.org/PublicHome.htm

Franciscan Health System – Congregational Health Ministries
Contact: Debbi Saint, RN BSN, Coordinator
Phone: (253) 426-6343, 127-6343
debbiesaint@fhshealth.org

Health Ministries Association, Inc.
Marlene Feagan, President PO Box 529, Queen Creek, AZ 85242
Phone: (800) 280-9919
Website: http://www.hmassoc.org/index.html

Note: The HMA in partnership with American Nurses Association established the Scope and Standards of Practice for Faith Community Nursing -2nd edition, January 2012 which delineates the competent level of nursing practice and professional performance that is common to and expected from all faith community nurses.

International Parish Nurse Resource Center
475 E. Lockwood Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63119
Phone: (314) 918-2559
Fax: (314) 918-2558 Email: awest@eden.edu
Website: http://www.parishnurses.org/
Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries
Phone: (503) 689-4458
Email: administrator@npnm.org
Website: www.npnm.org

The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC)
John M. Haas, Ph.D. S.T.L., President
6399 Drexel Rd, Philadelphia, PA 19151
Phone: (215) 877-2660 Fax: (215) 877-2688
Email: https://www.informationsecured.com/ncbc2/contactinfo.asp
Website: http://www.ncbcenter.org/index.asp

Washington State Catholic Conference (WSCC)
A Guide to Making Good Decisions for the End of Life; Living Will and Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care
Phone: (206) 301-0556 Fax: (206) 301-0558
Email: wscc@thewscc.org
Website: www.thewscc.org

Department of Health
Clallam County –
  http://www.clallam.net/hhs/
Clark County –
  http://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/
Cowlitz County –
  http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/Index.aspx?NID=205
Gray’s Harbor County –
  http://www.healthygh.org/
Island County –
  http://www.islandcountyhealth.org/
Jefferson County –
  http://www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/
King County –
Kitsap County –
  http://www.kitsapcountyhealth.com/
Lewis County –
  http://lewiscountywa.gov/publichealth
Mason County –
  http://www.co.mason.wa.us/health/
Pacific County –
  http://pacificcountyhealthdepartment.com/
Pierce County –
  http://www.tpchd.org/index.php
San Juan County –
  http://www.co.san-juan.wa.us/
Skagit County -
Skamania County –
http://www.skamaniacounty.org/community-health/homepage/public-health/
Snohomish County –
Thurston County –
http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/
Wahkiakum County –
http://www.co.wahkiakum.wa.us/depts/health/
Whatcom County –
http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/health/

Archdiocese of Seattle Program Support and Information:

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