



## 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](http://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/>
- 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 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/>
- Faith Community Nurses will be covered by Archdiocesan Insurance for these activities and do not need to provide evidence of professional liability insurance. The exceptions to this policy are individuals who also qualify as:
  - A physician, medical doctor, osteopath, chiropractor, resident, extern, or intern
  - A psychiatrist
  - A pharmacist
  - A dentist, orthodontist, or periodontist”
- 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/>*

## 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](mailto: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 -2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:awest@eden.edu)

Website: <http://www.parishnurses.org/>

**Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries**

Phone: (503) 689-4458

Email: [administrator@nprm.org](mailto:administrator@nprm.org)

Website: [www.nprm.org](http://www.nprm.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: [wscw@thewscw.org](mailto:wscw@thewscw.org)

Website: [www.thewscw.org](http://www.thewscw.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 –

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health.aspx>

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 -

<http://www.skagitcounty.net/Common/asp/default.asp?d=Health&c=General&p=main.htm>

Skamania County –

<http://www.skamaniacounty.org/community-health/homepage/public-health/>

Snohomish County –

<http://www.snohd.org/Default.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

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:**

Terri Nelson

Director of Integral Human

Development

Archdiocese of Seattle

(206) 274-3103 | [Terri.Nelson@seattlearch.org](mailto:Terri.Nelson@seattlearch.org)