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Registered nurses are leaders

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In Canada Registered Nurses are responsible and accountable for meeting their professional standards and competencies. In Saskatchewan it is mandatory each year for RNs to review the standards and competencies and reflect on how they will meet the competencies. One of the competencies is about professional leadership. RNs must demonstrate professional leadership by building relationships and trust, creating an empowering environment, supporting knowledge development and integration within the health care team, leading and sustaining change and balancing competing values and priorities. The Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO) has developed many Clinical Best Practices Guidelines and Health Work Environment (HWE) Best Practice Guidelines (BPG). One of the RNAO HWE BPGs is called Developing and Sustaining Nursing Leadership (2013). This BPG addresses each of the Saskatchewan RN leadership competencies and gives individual examples of how nurses can meet these competencies. The BPGs are based on evidence and give recommendations for individuals, educational programs, organizations and governments, but this presentation will focus on the individual and team strategies that are recommended based on the evidence. This presentation will give an overview of the guideline and the recommendations for implementation. Participants will leave with some concrete examples of how they can demonstrate professional leadership and enhance their own practice.

Biography

Karen Eisler has been a RN for over 40 years. She has worked as a RN for 20 years in Intensive Care Unit and Emergency in an acute care hospital in Regina and for 20 years in Administrative positions. Currently, Associate Dean, Student Affairs at the Faculty of Nursing, University of Regina, Canada. Her master thesis and doctoral research was in nursing leadership. Her research interest is in nursing leadership related to patient and staff outcomes, quality workplaces and provincial and national nursing regulation.

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