



RATIOS AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Proper use of the therapeutic nursing plan

The **therapeutic nursing plan** (TNP) is a documentation standard for recording nurses' clinical decisions that was adopted by the Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec (OIIQ). The TNP is the record and proof of nurses' clinical decisions and shows all of the care and activities completed (nurses, licensed practical nurses and beneficiary attendants) for the patient. It is the preferred interprofessional collaborative tool among nurses and licensed practical nurses, which shows the workload of each healthcare professional. Nurses remain legally responsible for the observations recorded in the TNP.

The ratios project relies on compliance with this legal standard which ensures public protection. Use of TNPs is a prerequisite prior to implementation of the ratios.

After using them in some institutions, nurses observed that filling out TNPs for patients is quite similar to their current daily practice and allows them to be even more organized.

The TNP:

- enhances the profession by fully developing nurses' potential;
- gives nurses back power over their practice and the pride of giving high quality care;
- enhances the professional practice of LPNs through their participation in clinical assessment and follow-up;
- redistributes certain tasks to other healthcare providers;
- encourages professional collaboration through better work organization.

Beyond simple figures, the ratio projects are meant to achieve coherence between professional legislation and institutional rules and regulations. Since nurses are already legally required to complete a TNP for each patient, the ratio projects will give them back the time needed to do so.

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