

Alberta's Strategic Clinical Networks

Orientation Program for Adult Critical Care in Alberta (OPACCA)

The Goal

OPACCA is a four-week educational program aimed at addressing the need for highly skilled critical care across Alberta. The program addresses everything from how to use specialized ICU equipment, to how to care for ventilated or intubated patients.

New nurses work several clinical shifts with senior nurses to apply theory to practice to complete orientation. All adult critical care nurses in Alberta will receive additional training before stepping foot into their local units.



The Process

To build on the success of the classroom format, OPACCA now includes a mix of classroom, online and hands-on education. An online repository for course materials allows nurse educators from across the province to ask questions and stay connected through regular updates and discussion boards.

In 2015, OPACCA also began to use simulation techniques for hands-on learning outcomes for critical care nurses.

The Outcome

In March 2015, OPACCA had trained more than 1,000 critical care nurses across the province, with a 92 per cent learner completion rate.

OPACCA has contributed to reduced RN vacancy and turnover rates due to the accessibility and effectiveness of the program, and reductions in portability costs as RNs are equipped with the knowledge and skills to work in multiple units throughout Alberta.

The Team

This project is led by the Critical Care Strategic Clinical Network's (SCN) Education team, which is comprised of unit and zone operational leaders, and Health Professions Strategy and Practice.