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POLICY TYPE
Policy endorsement

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TOPICS
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

Population health, health equity, public health

Documents

Policy Brief: CSAM-SMCA in Support of the Decriminalization of Drug Use and Possession for Personal Use

BACKGROUND

Community health nurses are at an advantageous vantage point in engaging those at risk of drug use and in helping them to quit. They are often the first point of contact for those seeking help and are therefore well-placed to intervene before the establishment of a drug use problem. Nurses can play an important role in helping to reduce the harm associated with drug use by providing education, supporting individuals to make informed choices, and referring them to appropriate services.

STANDARDS OF THOUGHT/PRODUCTIVE

Nursing interventions are based on the community health nurses' role as educators and advocates. Community health nurses can use their role to influence public policy and to promote the health of the public. They can work with communities to identify health needs and develop strategies to address those needs. Community health nurses can also work with policymakers to advocate for changes in public health policies that promote the health of the public.

This policy is consistent with the Canadian Nurses Association's (CNA) Code of Ethics for Nurses with a Scope of Practice and the Canadian Nurses Association's Competence Framework for Nurses. It is also consistent with the Canadian Nurses Association's (CNA) Code of Ethics for Nurses with a Scope of Practice and the Canadian Nurses Association's Competence Framework for Nurses.

CONCLUSION

Community health nurses are well-positioned to play a role in the decriminalization of drug use and possession for personal use. They can provide education and support to individuals who are at risk of drug use and can help to reduce the harm associated with drug use. They can also work with policymakers to advocate for changes in public health policies that promote the health of the public.

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