



DESCRIPTION OF EMERGENCY NURSING

- The Emergency Nurse is a professional who requires knowledge of scientific principles basic to health maintenance, treatment of illness, dynamics of interpersonal relationships and human behavior.
- The Emergency Nurse has a personal responsibility for continuing his/her education, in order to maintain a high degree of competency and the ability to meet the challenges of ever changing functions and skills.
- As a primary care practitioner, the Emergency Nurse is a visible community resource, both in terms of health care delivery and teaching.
- Emergency Nursing is the care of a constantly changing variety of patients.
- The Emergency environment is unique in:
 - ~ The fluctuating volume of patients
 - ~ The broad scope of patient acuity
 - ~ The variety of health problems
 - ~ The dynamic nature of patient activity
 - ~ The unscheduled and unpredictable manner in which patients arrive
- Emergency patients include individuals of all ages, presenting with health problems which are undiagnosed from both a nursing and medical perspective.

Canadian Nurses Association (1984): “Emergency Nursing practice includes the assessment, diagnosis, treatment and evaluation of patients of all ages with perceived, actual or potential emergent, urgent or non-urgent physical or psychological alterations of health, which are undiagnosed or require further intervention.”