



AOHNA
ALBERTA OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH NURSES ASSOCIATION

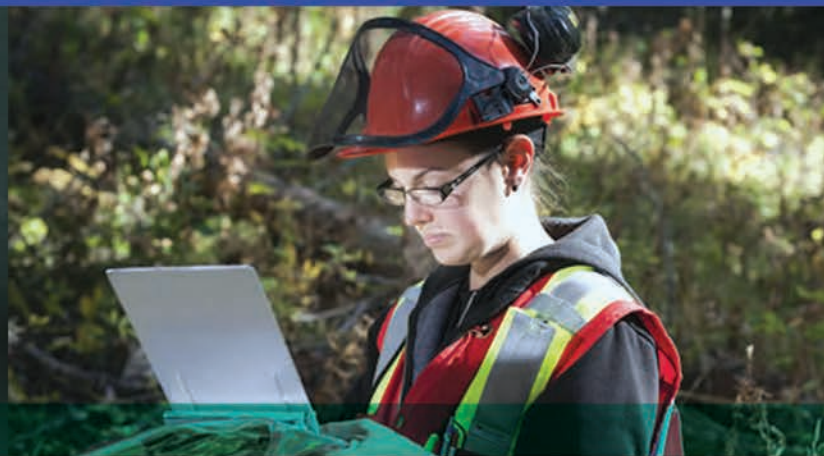


NURSING EXPERTISE AT WORK

Ensuring all workers and workplaces are healthy and safe

www.aohna.org

Health and Safety at Work



Occupational Health Nurses

Occupational Health Nurses (OHNs) are the primary specialists in the provision of Occupational Health services.

An OHN is a Registered Nurse who has graduated with a Certificate or Diploma from a recognized Occupational Health Nursing program and/or who has achieved the level of COHN(C) with the Canadian Nurses Association.

OHNs deliver integrated Occupational Health, Safety, Environmental and Wellness services to individual workers and worker populations. Occupational Health Nursing encompasses the promotion, maintenance and restoration of health and the prevention of illness and injury.





Education

- OHNs are Registered Nurses who have graduated with a Certificate or Diploma from a recognized Occupational Health Nursing program and/or who have achieved the level of COHN(C) with the Canadian Nurses Association.
- Many RNs begin working in Occupational Health before taking specialized courses and then either work their way towards completing a recognized Occupational Health Nursing program and/or write and pass the Occupational Nursing Certification Exam from the Canadian Nurses Association to obtain their designation as a COHN(C).
- AOHN strongly encourages all members towards professional certification.
- Occupational Health Nursing programs are available online through several Colleges and Universities in Canada.

Continuing Education

- Legislation and work environments are continually changing and therefore, it is very important for the OHN to maintain current knowledge and expertise in this specialty practice.
- Continuing education credits are required for certification and re-certification at the COHN(C) level.





Work Experience

- Three to five years of general nursing experience is recommended prior to commencing work in the field of Occupational Health.

Professional Responsibilities

- Maintain active registration under the applicable provincial or territorial nursing regulatory body.
- Maintain continuing competency requirements as outlined by the applicable provincial or territorial nursing regulatory body.
- Must practice in accordance with relevant provincial/territorial and federal legislation, code of ethics, professional practice standards, workplace policies and procedures, and human rights legislation.
- Maintain competent practice through knowledge of current best practice.





Health

Safety
first

Workplaces

Regulations

**WORK
SAFETY**

Hazards

Protection

Risks

Keeping All Workplaces Healthy and Safe

Studies show that healthy workers influence productivity, have increased job satisfaction and morale which improves the organizational bottom lines.

OHNs influence the health of worker populations by:

- Being leaders in identifying workplace hazards (e.g. noise) and recommending the appropriate controls (hearing protection).
- Being expert resources for health care resources.
- Evaluating and auditing the workplace for health and safety hazards.
- Developing health promotion initiatives including development and implementation of mental health strategies.
- Leading and supporting development of emergency response plans including Pandemic planning.
- Supporting programs for communicable disease management.

OHNs support workers health by:

- Creating programs to support organizational health and safety initiatives.
- Assessing and treating ill or injured workers.
- Providing modified work and return to work programs.
- Providing health programs such as immunizations, hearing testing, spirometry (lung function) and blood pressure screening.
- Providing health assessments.
- Providing health counseling and initiating referrals to other health care professionals.
- Offering first aid services.
- Performing ergonomic assessments and providing employees assistance with ergonomic concerns.



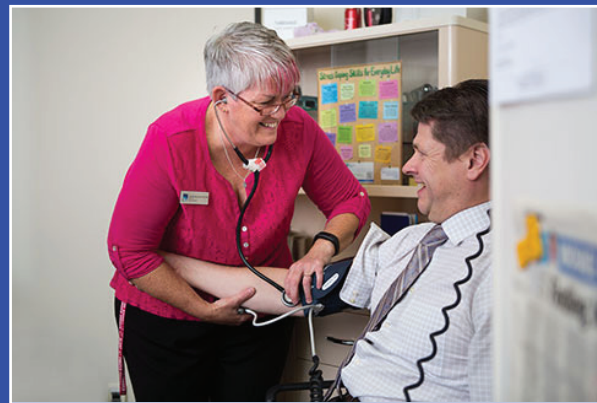


Healthy workers contribute to a company's profitability which results in a competitive advantage.

OHNs contribute to a company's profitability by:

Managing the Occupational Health and Safety System

- Understanding and influencing health and safety programming consistent with corporate business needs.
- Developing and implementing the health and safety management system.
- Developing health and safety policies and procedures.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of health and safety programs.
- Assuring compliance with legislation.
- Creating and maintaining a budget for the health and safety program.
- Maintaining confidentiality of employee health records.
- Providing statistical data for corporate reporting.
- Recruiting and/or managing other health professionals.





Disability Management

- Provides case management for ill or injured workers (WCB, STD or LTD).
- Ensures a safe return to work from leave for employees.
- In collaboration with health professionals, implements modified work programs.
- Provides recommendations regarding workplace accommodation.
- Provides complex disability case management support including referral to specialists as deemed appropriate.

Emergency Services

- Ensures compliance to provincial and federal first aid legislation.
- Provides first response and first aid.
- Participates in emergency response or emergency response planning.
- Participates in Pandemic planning.

Health and Safety Training

- Identifies worker health and safety training needs.
- Provides health and safety training in a variety of areas including, but not limited to, WHMIS, personal protective equipment, immunization requirements, health promotion and hazard awareness.
- Works with other skilled personnel to deliver specialized education or training.





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Since 1995, the AOHNA has been the voice for Alberta's Occupational Health Nurses..

AOHNA is a professional association providing current and future Occupational Health Nurses with evidence-based information, networking and mentoring opportunities. We provide our members with relevant supports to guide their organizations to a healthy workforce.

Through focused programs and services, AOHNA supports OHNs to provide care and programming for excellence in Occupational Health and Safety.

AOHNA's mission is to support Occupational Health Nurses as the authority on integrated health and safety in the workplace.

Benefits of belonging to the AOHNA include:

- Access to industry-leading evidence-based professional development and resources
- Articles and resources to keep you up-to-date and informed
- FREE access to National Standards of Practice and Competencies for OHNs
- Access to our Mentorship program
- Continuing education funding through scholarship and grant programs
- Access to active job postings
- Peer-to-peer support and access to a member-only community
- Networking opportunities and events
- Input and participation to drive the OHN agenda with the Alberta Government
- Automatic membership with the Canadian Occupational Health Nursing Association (COHNA)
- Access to exclusive Member Saving Programs





Is Occupational Health Nursing Right For You?

Occupational Health Nurses work in a variety of workplace settings. The following skills and abilities will contribute positively to a successful career choice:

- ✓ Likes working independently
- ✓ Makes nursing decisions with confidence
- ✓ Possesses critical thinking skills
- ✓ Is comfortable working out of scope (without union membership)
- ✓ Possesses some familiarity with business processes
- ✓ Understands principles of business management
- ✓ Is comfortable working with computers and technology
- ✓ Engages in continuing education and research
- ✓ Enjoys change
- ✓ Takes the initiative in creating and developing programs
- ✓ Likes to educate or train others
- ✓ Understands principles of confidentiality of health information
- ✓ Enjoys a high level of interaction with workers
- ✓ Initiates interaction with external customers/resources
- ✓ Is comfortable working with union representatives





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Membership

Membership options are available to Registered Nurses (RNs), Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs), nursing students, other health and safety professionals practicing within Occupational Health and retired OHNs. For more information on the types of membership available, please visit our website or contact us!

For more information on AOHNA, please contact us!

Email: admin@aohna.org

Website: www.aohna.org



AOHNA | Nursing Expertise at Work

Occupational Health Nurses are an integral part of safe and healthy workplaces.



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