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Faith Community Nurse as Population Health Specialist

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Faith Community Nursing Scopes and Standards of Practice states on page 11 in part “the preferred preparation for a registered nurse or advanced practice nurse entering the specialty of Faith Community Nursing (FCN) includes...academic preparation in community –or population-focused nursing.”

This faith-based practice, encompassing a variety of faith traditions, was recognized as a specialty nurse practice in 1997, with its own scopes and standards of practice in 1998. Recently there has been increased awareness of the practice by other disciplines, government and health agencies. Faith Community Nurses focus on intentional care of the spirit as well as promotion of health, mind, body and spirit, in the context of the faith community.

FCNs have been vital partners in national health initiatives– such as Healthy People 2020 and the development of transitional care delivery models, reducing readmission rates and increasing the quality of life. FCN’s continue to reduce health disparities as advocates for Population Based Health in their communities.

Health agencies encourage promotion of healthy behaviors, creating healthy environments and increasing access to quality health care. Faith communities have been identified as one type of organization that is able to plan and deliver community health promotions programs. New models of collaborative care include work with public health nurses on programs that serve the entire community. FCNs have been shown to impact the health and wellness of faith communities and beyond.

FCNs have a passion for the art and science of whole person health. Some are volunteers, and others work in a paid model. FCNs add value to the health care delivery system all across the country, by promoting the presence and recognition of whole person health in their communities and congregations, reducing costs and lowering readmission rates.

If you would like any more information about Faith Community Nursing or Health Ministries, call us at 360-788-6408.