

## **DEFINITION OF A NEONATAL NURSE**

A Neonatal Nurse is a nurse who specializes in the care of preterm and/or sick newborn infants and their families across the care continuum-hospital or community/follow up settings-during at least the neonatal period (first 28 days of life) to promote the best possible health outcomes. The Neonatal Nurse provides education regarding neonatal health issues; works in interprofessional teams to enhance communication and collaboration; provides and advocates for culturally sensitive, family centered, patient focused , developmentally supportive care; uses and contributes to evidence-based practice, changes care based on best practices, and conducts research to advance neonatal nursing science. Key roles for neonatal nurses include providing direct care to newborns and families, education, advocacy, research, participation in shaping neonatal health policy, and inpatient and health systems management.

Approved by COINN BOD April 29, 2014

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