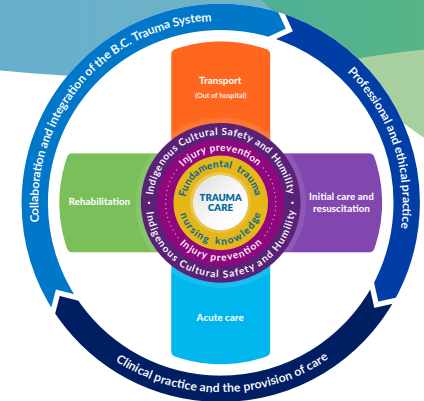


Provincial Trauma Nursing Competency Framework

For all trauma nurses working within the continuum of care



Purpose and scope

The Provincial Trauma Nursing Competency Framework (PTNCF) serves to define the essential skills and knowledge required by trauma nurses in British Columbia. Competency in nursing encompasses a comprehensive blend of knowledge, professional judgment, skills, values, and attitudes (Fukada, 2018). These core competencies are vital for trauma nurses to effectively fulfill their roles and provide ongoing clinical care to trauma patients.

This evidence-based competency framework is an invaluable resource for trauma nurses at individual, program, or health authority levels. Its scope is practical and designed to adapt and expand as ongoing research and knowledge continue to enhance trauma care practices.

Trauma care

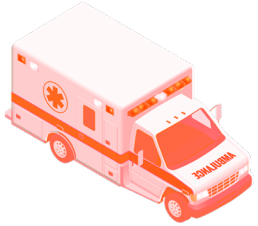
In this framework, trauma care is illustrated in the centre and is the quintessential part of this framework. Trauma nurses play a vital role within the B.C. trauma system and require specialized knowledge, skills and judgement in order to provide the highest quality and the safest patient care (STN, 2016). The PTNCF defines the fundamental trauma nursing knowledge required by nurses in each facet of the trauma continuum of care and explores the interwoven relationship of injury prevention throughout.

- **Fundamental trauma nursing knowledge** illustrates the core competencies for trauma nurses throughout the trauma continuum of care. General principles of trauma care and resuscitation, leadership, teamwork and ethical practice are embedded throughout this framework and provide the platform to guide clinical practice.
- **Indigenous cultural safety and humility** is embedded throughout this framework and reflects the commitment and responsibility of trauma nurse to provide culturally safe and unbiased clinical care. Indigenous cultural safety and humility surrounds the core of this framework and ensures that all facets of the trauma continuum are included.
- **Injury prevention** is a crucial component to any trauma system and is often the most challenging. Reducing the burden of injury remains the responsibility of all nurses working within the trauma system.

The **four facets** of this framework signify the patient's journey and outlines the unique needs of the trauma patient and the nursing skills and competencies required during each phase of care.

Transport

Transport RN's must possess critical thinking, leadership and the ability to prioritize care within the transport environment (ASTNA, 2018). The clinical decision to transport a patient is not without some level of complexity therefore, RNs who are practicing within the transport environment require advanced knowledge, skills and training.



Initial care and resuscitation

Trauma nurses in the ED must possess advanced skills and knowledge to provide effective care during this phase. This framework emphasizes the immediate life-saving interventions needed during the resuscitative phase.



Acute care

The level of care needed by trauma patients can change as they move through acute care. Whether it involves complex surgical procedures, critical care, or specialized treatments, the clinical knowledge and skills required by nurses may vary. Through collaboration with multidisciplinary teams and families, and nurses prioritize care to prevent secondary injuries and enhance the recovery of trauma patients.



Rehabilitation

Nurses in the rehabilitation setting offer crucial support shortly after a traumatic injury, aiding patients in their journey back to the community. This framework underscores the holistic approach nurses take in addressing intricate physical, psychological, and social challenges to deliver optimal patient care.



Domains of care

This competency framework has been divided into **three domains** that will highlight the core competencies required to deliver safe and comprehensive care to trauma patients across the trauma continuum. These domains surround the four facets of this framework and are integral to the foundational knowledge, skills and judgement of the trauma nurse.

- 1. Collaboration and integration of the B.C. trauma system:**
Identifies the inclusive role of TSBC within the trauma continuum of care
- 2. Professional and ethical practice:**
Provides inclusive, equitable, safe and high quality trauma nursing care, free of Indigenous-specific racism within an multidisciplinary team model
- 3. Clinical practice and the provision of care:**
Incorporates the fundamental and essential clinical knowledge and nursing skills required within the trauma continuum of care: transport, initial care and resuscitation, acute care and rehabilitation

