



## NURSING ASSISTANT

*/ Autonomous, Versatile, Dynamic,  
Ready to take up new challenges*

### THE NURSING ASSISTANT /

The Nursing Assistant is a *health professional* who works with other members of the health network. She has the competence and autonomy required to contribute to the assessment of a person's state of health and to accomplishing the nursing care plan, to provide nursing care as well as nursing and medical treatments in order to maintain or restore health and to prevent sickness, as well as giving palliative care.

There are nearly 16,500 Nursing Assistants throughout Quebec. They work in various health institutions, such as hospital centers, long-term care centers, CLSCs and private clinics.

### A SPECIALIZE TRAINING PROGRAM /

The *training program* leading to the professional recognition as a Nursing Assistant totals 1,800 hours. This postsecondary education culminates in a Diploma of Professional Studies (DPS) issued by the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ).

The training, which is provided in vocational training centres, focuses exclusively on the acquisition of the theoretical and practical knowledge in nursing care that will allow the Nursing Assistant to make her vital contribution to patient care.

The training program called "Health, Assistance and Nursing Care" is available in MEQ-recognized schools.

### NURSING ASSISTANTS ARE MEMBERS OF A PROFESSIONAL ORDER /

Nursing Assistants are all members of a professional order. *The Order's mandate is to insure public protection* by supervising the professional practice of its members.

Governed by the Professional Code, the Order carries out its mandate in various ways. Through its *Education Committee*, it controls and verifies the quality of the training received by student Nursing Assistants. This allows the Order to ensure that only those candidates who meet their basic requirements will receive a permit to practise the profession.

Through its *Professional Inspection Committee*, the Order ensures the permanent control of member competence. This Committee is mandatory under the Professional Code, and is responsible for monitoring Nursing Assistants standards of practice in general.

Finally, the Order has a responsibility to take measures against any member who contravenes the Code of Ethics of Nursing Assistants, and this is done through the *Committee on discipline*.

In *June 2002*, the government modified the professional legislation in the health sector and, by doing so, considerably increased the practice of the Nursing Assistants. More than giving the nursing care already within their expertise, they are notably empowered to take blood samples, administer vaccines under prescription and contribute to vaccination campaigns ensuing from the application of the law on public health.



Ordre des infirmières  
et infirmiers auxiliaires  
du Québec

*For ease of reading, the feminine gender in this text includes the masculine.*

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