**Relationally Engaging in Community Support of Families and eHealth**

**OVERVIEW**

One of the key tasks of nurses in health care settings is to link families to community and resources. This can be done right from the start, as the nurse initiates the nurse-client (family) partnership. "From the first meeting, the nurse and family co-evolve together, with both the family and the nurse changing in response to the other and according to their own individual biopsychosocial-spiritual structures, which have been influenced by their history of interactions and their genetic makeup. What must happen in order to create a healing context for change? Empathy, mindfulness, and empathic responding are all necessary ingredients for creating a healing context" (Wright & Leahey, 2013, p. 310).
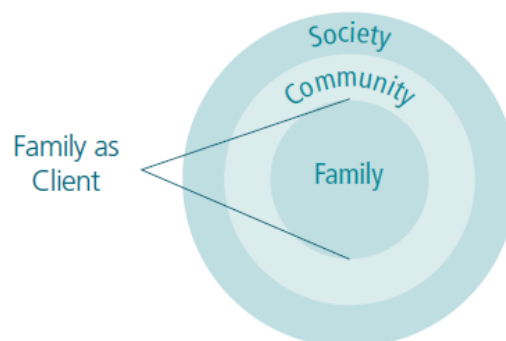
Nurse-family partnerships established within hospital settings are often brief and terminated once the client and their family return home. Nurses need skills in terminating these relationships professionally and supportively, with continued support organized within the family's own community. This includes online resources established to connect people to information and community supports. Provincial and national eHealth initiatives are also important resources that nurses can use to help families become engaged in their own health and wellness.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

This learning activity is intended to provide the learner with the opportunity to:

- Identify the importance of establishing strong partnerships with clients and families despite the brevity of contact

- Outline efficient termination processes to end temporary partnerships and steer the family to community based supports

- Select community resources that specifically address family needs and goals

- Analyze how eHealth resources can provide ways for clients and families to access information, find networks and contacts, and establish relationships with community based health professionals

**PREPARATION**

**READ:** Chapter 10: How to Move Beyond Basic Family Nursing Skills
Chapter 11: How to Avoid the Three Most Common Errors in Family Nursing
Chapter 12: How to Terminate with Families in Wright & Leahey

**READ:** Ch 5: All Nursing is Family Nursing **pages 202 – 226 only** in Doane & Varcoe

**VIEW VIDEO:** Teens & Technology - Growing Up in the iGeneration
http://youtu.be/4Uke4XGu9uw

**VIEW VIDEO**: Digitally Connected - Children, Youth, Digital Media, Health and Well-Being
http://youtu.be/k4fi2Jpa-7Y

**VIEW VIDEO:** Talking Health: Technology and Innovation http://youtu.be/L4W6xCh1J8o

**ONLINE ACTIVITIES**

**MOVING BEYOND BASIC FAMILY NURSING WITH eHEALTH FORUM**

Do a web quest to find an example of an eHealth initiative that helps nurses or other health professionals provide care that goes beyond basic protocol (refer to Chapter 10 in the Wright reading and the Doane and Varcoe reading for ideas). Share your resource in the Moodle forum and explain how it goes beyond the basics.

**REFLECTION**

How can we make eHealth more personable and interactive for clients and families?

**REFERENCES**

RNAO. (2002). *Supporting and strengthening families through expected and unexpected life events*, Toronto: Author

Wright, L. & Leahey, M. (2013). *Nurses and families: A guide to family assessment and intervention.* 6th edition. F.A. Davis