

ASK A PRACTICE ADVISOR

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NURSING RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

Question: We have a new resident coming into our LTC facility and he has a tracheostomy. I would like to update my knowledge and skills related to the nursing management of a client with a tracheostomy including suctioning. Our reference texts in the facility are outdated but we have access to the internet at work. Where can I find up to date and reliable information for myself and my co-workers on-line?

NurseONE is an excellent web-based resource providing RNs across Canada with access to current and reliable information to support nursing practice. The SRNA enables all RN members, graduate nurses and nursing students with a Canadian Nursing Students' Association membership to have free access.

If you haven't already registered go to www.nurseone.ca. Follow the directions on the left hand side of the home page to register. You will have to submit information such as your name, RN registration number, e-mail address and a password. After you have successfully registered you can log on to the site. Click on Library at the top of the Home page and you will be provided with a page listing 8 resources. Click on the red lettering of the resource called STAT!Ref and type in words pertaining to your search topic. To get information on the topic you want type 'tracheostomy suctioning' for example, in the search box at the top of the page. A number of current reference books are displayed. When you click on a specific reference the chapters/sections will be displayed on the left side of the page and your search words will be displayed in 'red' to find the information easily.

Check out the other resources on STAT!Ref such as Steadman's Medical Dictionary, Anatomy.tv, and the National Guideline Clearing House which has evidence-based clinical practice guidelines. If you are looking for an authoritative source related to a specific medication go to the Library and click on E Therapeutics. It provides access to evidence-based Canadian drug and therapeutic information and best practices. You can also access the latest edition of the CPS.

NurseONE is a valuable resource for RNs wherever they are working in health care as long as they have access to the internet. On-line resources will replace textbooks and journals in the workplace simply because it is less expensive and provides access to timely, evidence-based and expert information enabling RNs to make swifter and better informed decisions on behalf of clients.

In addition to accessible resources, RNs can also complete the components of the SRNA Continuing Competence program via NurseONE.

Two other useful and free on-line resources are:

- The Saskatchewan Health Information Resources Partnership Health Sciences Library (SHIRP) at www.shirp.ca. A user ID and password is provided when you register on-line or by calling 966-8739.
- The Cochrane Library www.thecochranelibrary.com. This website is the best single source of evidence about the effects of health care interventions and can be accessed through a health region facility computer or your home computer if you have a current public library card.

If you require support to find resources call 1-800-667-9945 ext. 237 or e-mail dcummings@srna.org. If you require assistance to register on NurseONE go to info@nurseone.ca or registration@nurseone.ca or call 1-800-361-8404.