



Unit Name: Connections Halifax

Unit Location: 1221 Barrington Street, Halifax, NS

Program: Recovery and Integration Service, Mental Health and Addictions

Nova Scotia Health Authority Outpatient Service Profile

The purpose of this Profile is to provide Nurses with an overview of each service area.

<u>General Information</u>	
Service	Connections Halifax
Site	1221 Barrington Street, Halifax
Brief description of the Unit	<p>Community based service that provides an array of supports and opportunities for individuals living with mental health challenges that contribute to their recovery and re-integration back into their community. The core components of the service are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Clinical Care & Treatment Support2. Employment & Education Support3. Family Support & Education4. Health & Wellness5. Community Outreach6. Resource Centre7. Social Support & Engagement

Unit Orientation	Orientation varies from staff to staff. It includes the Central Zone Mental Health and Addictions Staff Orientation offered by the Clinical Nurse Educators. In terms of service specific orientation, the Addiction and Mental Health Program Orientation Guidelines are followed and a more detailed site specific orientation is offered. Length of orientation will vary according to the mental health experience of the RN. Opportunities for staff shadowing and mentorship are available.
Number of Beds	n/a

<u>Patient Care</u>	
Patient Population	<p>Individuals age 19+ living with serious and persistent mental illness, with a primary diagnosis of a psychotic disorder (e.g. schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder and other psychotic illnesses) and who experience substantial functional challenges, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing the practical activities of daily living (such as self care, grocery shopping and food preparation, transportation, relationships, money management, coping, maintaining wellness, etc.) • Accessing and engaging in meaningful skill-building activities such as employment, volunteer work, and education • Succeeding at safe, affordable and stable independent tenancy or in supported housing environments • Enjoying a positive level of social networks and relationships
Average Patient Age Range	19 yrs and above (75 yrs)
Nursing Model of Care	<p>Primary Nursing: _____ Team Nursing: <u> X </u> Other: _____ Total Patient Care: <u> X </u> Modified Total Patient Care: _____</p> <p>Other: Case Management Services</p>

Systems

Medication System	Traditional: <u> X </u> Unit Dosage: _____ Other: <u> X </u> Other: The nurses give IM's, do metabolic monitoring with our participants either at the individual's home or designated Central Zone facility. They also do medication reconciliation for new clients and others as required.
Scheduling	Manager: _____ Self: <u> X </u>
Average Number of Staff per Shift	Days: RN <u> 4 </u> FT <u> </u> LPN <u> n/a </u> CTA <u> n/a </u> Evenings: RN <u> </u> LPN <u> </u> CTA <u> n/a </u> Nights: RN <u> </u> LPN <u> </u> CTA <u> n/a </u>
Service Hours	08:30 to 16:30 / 5 days/week (Monday-Friday) We have occasionally evenings and weekends programming that may be required. Staff flex their hours
Length of Shift	8hr: <u> X </u> 12 hr: _____ Other: _____ Other:

Staff

Staff Mix	RN: <u> 14 </u> % of total staff or 100% Nursing staff LPN: <u> 0 </u> % CTA: _____ %
Physician Coverage	On Call: _____ On Site: <u> X </u> N/A: _____ Other: _____
Multidisciplinary Team Members	Occupational Therapists, Social Workers, Recreation Therapists, occupational therapy assistants, Psychiatrist, Health Service Manager, psychologist, registered nurses

Required Skills, Qualifications & Experience

RN
Registered Nurses provide professional nursing services, deliver health education programs and provide consultative nursing services to promote, maintain and restore patient health.

- Responsibilities** Primary support staff with specific case load (up to 20 participants)

	<p>Symptoms Management</p> <p>Mental Health Assessment including the Mental Status Exam</p> <p>Medication Management (IM's, medication reconciliation, metabolic monitoring, link to pharmacies/GP's/specialists, etc)</p> <p>Primary clinician support i.e. do assessment of needs & strengths/recovery plan, wellness plan, support individuals with their goals, engage with natural supports and community partners</p> <p>Family work/support</p> <p>Consultant with the inter professional team on various medical/psychiatric issues</p> <p>Work closely with the psychiatrist</p> <p>Facilitate groups with other staff</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills Required 	<p>Knowledge of and skilled in Recovery-oriented approach</p> <p>Knowledge of mental illnesses/medications/concurrent disorders/etc</p> <p>Knowledge of the Recovery and Integration Services and processes as well as all the Mental Health Services within the NS Health Authority (Central zone)</p> <p>Knowledge of other services in the community</p> <p>Skills in giving injections and doing metabolic monitoring</p> <p>Skills in verbal communication/ Interpersonal skills</p> <p>Excellent documentation skills</p> <p>Assessment skills/Interviewing skills</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Responsibilities 	<p>Knowledge of safe community practice</p> <p>Team player</p> <p>Support program development and evaluation</p> <p>Contribute to various committees</p>

• **Additional License/Certification/Education required**

- Recovery oriented approach
- Concurrent disorder
- Motivational interview
- Suicide prevention assessment
- Mental health status assessment
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy(an asset)
- Cultural Competency
- Family work

Completed by: Dorothy Edem

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