



# Department of Ecology: Pharmaceutical Waste Management Seminar

## Building Nurse Capacity

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# Objectives

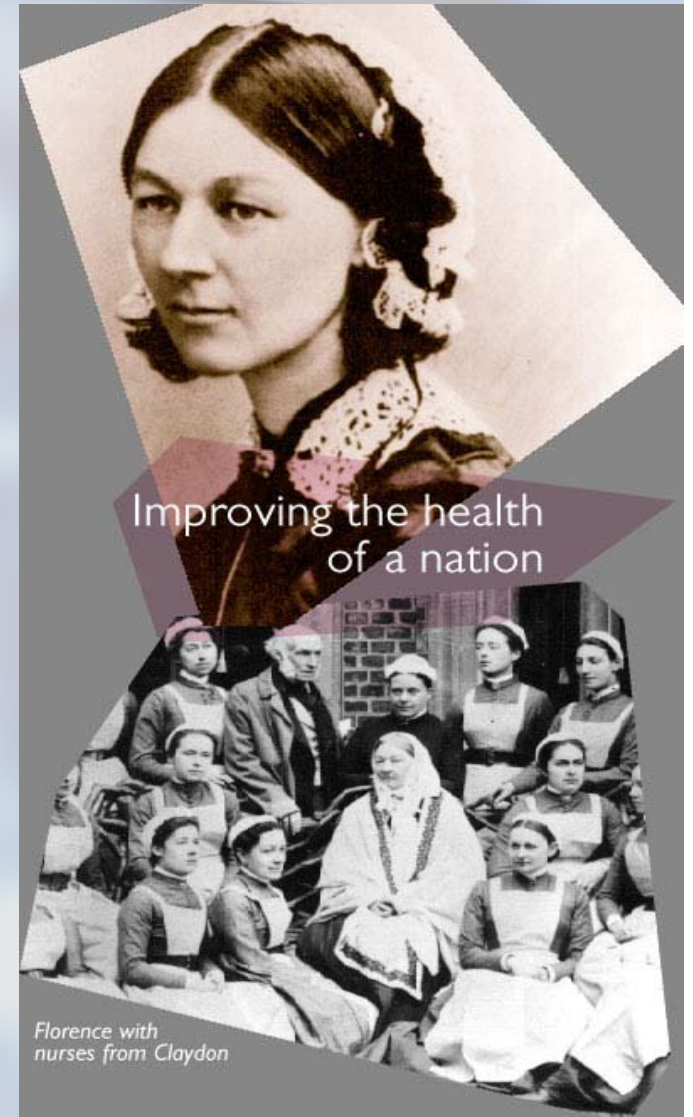
- How to get nurses “on board”
- Implementing the pharmaceutical waste management program into nursing culture
- Tips for training



# Getting Nurses "On Board": Nurses and Environmental Health Activism

"No amount of medical knowledge will lessen the accountability for nurses to do what nurses do, that is, manage the environment to promote positive life forces"

<http://www.nihe.org/multimedia/Nursing%20&%20Environment%20-E%20Ceppetelli.ppt#371.3> Slide 3



Improving the health  
of a nation

Florence with  
nurses from Claydon



# Florence Nightingale's Tenets

- Philosophy of environmental health included understanding and recognizing the effects of social, economic and political forces on the health of her patient
  
- Interventions focused on the environment to promote health
  - Pure air
  - Pure water
  - Wholesome food
  - Cleanliness
  - Efficient drainage
  - Light



# Historical Perspective on Occupational and Environmental Health and Nursing

“Nature alone cures...and what nursing has to do is to put the patient in the best condition for nature to act upon him” (Nightingale, 1859)





# Occupational and Environmental Health Nurses:

## Effective Use of Your Employee Health Nurse

- Academic background
- Natural liaison between community and businesses
- A professional obligation not only to protect workers but also companies
- Familiar with Federal, State and local regulations
- Familiar with industry specific rules, policies, etc



Washington State Occupational Health Nurses Association and the University of Washington's Occupational and Environmental Health Nursing Department's annual meeting 2006



# Nurses are On Board with Environmental Health Advocacy

- ANA Strategic plan to build capacity in Environmental health advocacy
  - WSNA
  - Health Care Without Harm (HCWH)
  - Hospitals for Healthy Environment (H2E)
- Academia

# Washington State Nurses Association



2005 Chemical Policy Reform... a Legislative Priority



# WSNA Environmental Health Action Plan

- Inform the organization/constituents and community about environmental health issues
- Form strategic alliance with local env. health advocacy groups
- Develop a step-system approach for nurses to engage in env health issues at their own level at home, work and community
- Model leadership



# Health Care Without Harm Mission

- To transform the health care industry worldwide, without compromising patient safety or care, so that it is ecologically sustainable and no longer a source of harm to public health and the environment

U.S. / CANADA





# Health Care Without Harm

- **Just as the Hippocratic Oath promises to, "first, do no harm," HCWH is based on the premise that health care providers have a responsibility to eliminate practices that harm people and the environment.**



# Hospitals for a Health Environment (H2E)

## MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE

Respect your coworkers, patients and the environment —  
Follow these guidelines for proper waste segregation

**Be Sharp with Sharps!**  
Syringes, needles, slides, test tubes, scissors, blades and anything that can cut or puncture the skin must be discarded into a sharps container.

**Beware of Mercury!**  
Mercury is a hazardous material. To report a spill or to discard mercury waste such as thermometers or blood pressure units, contact Environmental Services.

**Put Waste in its Place!**  
Use red bags only for true Regulated Medical Waste: blood-soaked materials, blood bags, suction canisters, tissues from surgery and autopsy, cultures and stocks of infectious agents, and items saturated with body fluids as defined by OSHA.

**Wanted: Soiled Linen!**  
Place soiled or damaged linen in the designated linen hampers. Linen should never go into a waste receptacle.

**Recycle Paper!**  
Discard office paper into recycling bins, which are for white and colored paper, faxes, Post-it notes, junk mail, newspapers, magazines, forms, file folders and more.

**Put Waste in its Place!**  
Items such as nonbloody IV bags and tubing, gloves, packaging, urine, feces, diapers, food and protective equipment should go in the regular garbage.

Continuum Health Partners is a proud member of Health Care Without Harm. [www.noharm.org](http://www.noharm.org)

**Thanks for doing your part!**

**North Shore**  
University Hospital and  
Medical Center  
The Mount Sinai College  
of Medicine

**St. Luke's  
Reverend**

University Hospital of  
Marquette University College  
of Medicine & Surgery

**Long Island  
College Hospital**


Primary Care Training  
Office of Quality  
Improvement Center  
of Excellence

**NY Eye & Ear**

Medical Training  
Hospital of New York  
Medical College

Printed on recycled paper

- AHA and EPA goal to eliminate mercury and reduce waste volume in health care
- Ethical responsibility and Mission statement
- Environment/Public Health
- Regulatory compliance and liability
- Safety-OSHA compliance
- Press coverage and awards
- Community relations
- Patient and employee satisfaction
- Potential cost savings



# University of Washington School of Nursing

- Bothell School of Nursing - RN to BSN  
Community Health Nursing
  - Focal groups include occupational and environmental health nursing principles
- OEHnursing Masters program – Main campus






## Strategic Outreach and Mobilization

- Washington State Association of Occupational Health Nurses (WSAOHN)
- Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Health Care (AOHP)
- Association of Neonate Nurses (NANN)
- Association of Pediatric Nurses


**Nursing Practice Addressing the two most vulnerable populations**



## Implementing the Rx waste management program into nursing culture

- Pharmaceutical waste is still a relatively new environmental health policy within health care systems.
  - Start by informing nurses of the issue
    - Health facilities environmental foot print
    - Federal, state, industry compliance
    - Ask for their participation and support





# Implementing the Rx waste management program into nursing culture

- Nurses must be involved in the process from the beginning as part of the interdisciplinary team necessary to implement an effective policy and workable procedures
- Include nurses from different levels of practice, locations, specialties



# Implementing the Rx Waste Management Program into Nursing Culture

- Find the nurses that are already doing environmental health work in the facility. Is anyone working with WSNA, H2E or HCWH?
- Use established internal and external nursing systems to help disseminate the *Interim Enforcement Policy for Rx Waste in Healthcare*, compliance and training components
  - Academia
  - Env. advocacy groups
  - Professional organizations
  - Nurse specialty organizations
  - Unions, etc.,
- Support systems and supplies *must* be readily available





# Tips for Training-Barriers and Facilitators

## Facilitators

- Administrative support
- Get nurses involved from the onset
- Give plenty of notice for training dates
- Provide different opportunities for training

## Barriers

- Staffing shortage
- Making the connection to patient care
- If the process doesn't make sense or isn't convenient



# *Teaching Old Dogs New Tricks:* Tips for Training

- Train-the-trainer
  - For training and onsite expert
- Training should be annual including new employee orientation, and job transfer
- Review or retraining with identified breach in procedures
- Provide opportunities for practice
- Provide visual cues, check offs, “cliff notes” version of policy and procedures at the hazardous waste receptacles location
- Reward compliance





# Calling Nurses to Action-Implementing Rx Waste Policy and Procedure: Summary

- Nurses have a strong historical connection with environmental health principles
- Washington state nurses are becoming more educated and involved in environmental health advocacy
- Program implementation must include nursing from the onset to ensure nurse participation
- Use systems already in place to assist in implementation of program
- Make it easy for nurses to implement new procedures