



The Definition of Public Health Nursing Ver.2014

Public health nursing targets the individuals and families at all levels of health and all stages of life, including the communities in which these individuals live and work, such as groups, organizations, and communities.

The purpose of public health nursing is to contribute to the well-being of society and to extend further the life expectancy of individuals by promoting and maintaining health as well as the prevention of and recovery from health problems. This purpose is achieved by supporting targets that improve their ability to maintain and develop their own health and quality of life and by improving the surrounding environment.

To address these purposes, public health nursing uses the norms of social justice based on the standards of the activity. In addition, public health nursing supports the lives of the targeted individuals, families, and communities by linking together the health problems of said individuals, families, and communities. The health problems are elucidated or predicted through the systematic gathering of information and analysis. Moreover, public health nursing builds systems to support the health of individuals, families, and communities through cooperation that targets the related organizations by creating and organizing social resources.

The Definition of Public Health Nursing Science

Public health nursing science is the academic field that includes the knowledge, skills, norms and theory building as well as associated developments that contribute to improving public health nursing practices.

The Definition of Public Health Nurses

Public health nurses are professionals who strive to achieve the purposes of public health nursing using their national license as public health nurses.

These definitions have been approved by the board of directors of the Japan Academy of Public Health Nursing (JAPHN) in April 2014. JAPHN recommends that the following three definitions should be used as a unit rather than using only one of the three. Since, all three definitions are related to each other.