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Nursing implications of facilitators and barriers to health promoting behavior of rural Canadians

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Engagement in health promoting behaviors has shown to improve the health of individuals. However, there is a difference in both the health status and the health-promoting behaviors of urban and rural Canadians. These differences and possible reasons as to why these differences exist will be briefly discussed. While individuals are responsible for the decisions that they make regarding their health promoting behaviors, other factors have the potential to influence these behaviors; this viewpoint is supported by proponents of social ecology models. The authors of these models contend that other factors, such as family, social, organizational, environmental, and policy factors can also act as facilitators and barriers to health promoting behaviors experienced by individuals living in rural communities in Canada. Nursing implications regarding the assessment of these rural Canadians will be explored. Subsequent focuses for the health teaching of patients/clients who live in and/or who are being discharged to rural communities in Canada will then be presented.

Biography

Brenda Query has been a Registered Nurse for 20 years and Nursing Faculty for 14 years. She did her PhD in Nursing from the University of Alberta in Canada. Her main areas of interest are pediatrics, critical care, research, pharmacology, and hemodialysis. Focused areas of her research are health and health promoting behaviors of urban and rural caregivers of children with disabilities.

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