



Indigenous Relationship and Cultural Awareness (IRCA) Courses: Interactivity Guide Answers

Module 7: Indigenous Community Health Services

Note that the answers provided below are not exhaustive and merely provide relevant information/points to consider for each question.

Chapter 1 - Overview of Aboriginal Health Access Centres, Community Health Centres and Family Health Teams

1. What are the main differences between Aboriginal Health Access Centres and Community Health Centres?

Answer:

Aboriginal Health Access Centres (AHACs) are Indigenous community-led, primary health care organizations. They were modeled after Ontario's Community Health Centres (CHCs), which are not Indigenous Community-led; however, three CHCs do provide Indigenous-Specific programming: Chigamik CHC in Midland, Anishnawbe Health Toronto CHC, and Misiway Milopemahtesewin CHC in Timmins.

AHACs provide a combination of traditional healing, primary care, cultural programs, health promotion programs, community development initiatives, and social support services to First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities. There are currently ten AHACs in Ontario, providing services both on and off-reserve, in urban, rural and northern locations.

2. What are Indigenous Family Health Teams and how many of them are there in Ontario?

Answer:

Indigenous Family Health Teams provide primary care services to First Nations and Inuit populations located on and off reserve. There are 5 Indigenous Family Health Teams in Ontario, which offer a variety of services such as diabetes care, mental health programs, smoking cessation clinics, Traditional Healing, preventative medical care, and lifestyle clinics.

The 5 Family Health Teams are as follows: The Algonquins of Pikwakanagan Family Health Team, The Baawaating Family Health Team, the Dilico Anishinabek Family Health Clinic, the Six Nations Family Health Team, and the Akausivik Inuit Family Health Team.



Chapter 2 - Overview of First Nations, Inuit and Métis and urban Indigenous Community Health Services

1. Reflection: Here is a link to the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) webpage: <http://www.ofifc.org/about-fc/centres/map>. Where is the closest Friendship Centre location to your area, and how might their programs help First Nations, Inuit and Métis patients?

Answer: Self-reflection question. Points to consider:

Various OFIFC programs include:

- Indigenous Diabetes Program
- Addictions and Mental Health Programs
- Life-Long Care Program
- Healing and Wellness Program
- Urban Indigenous Healthy Living Program
- Health Outreach Programs
- Indigenous Healthy Babies Healthy Children (AHBHC) Program
- The Akwe:go urban Indigenous Children's Program
- Children's Mental Health Project (CMHP)

Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres. (2013). Find a Friendship Centre. Retrieved from: <http://www.ofifc.org/about-fc/centres/map>

2. Name some providers (organizations or groups) of *Métis* and *Inuit*-specific community health services.

Answer: The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), Champlain Inuit Service Provider Table (CISPRT). Note that the CISPRT table member organization includes Tungasuvvingat Inuit, Akausavik Inuit Family Health Team, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, Larga Baffin and Ottawa Health Services Network Inc.



Chapter 3 - Challenges and Issues with Health Services

1. Reflect on the video with Former Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee. Based on the video, what are some of the health issues that First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples face?

Answer:

- Access to safe drinking water in their community
- Access to medical transportation
- Working with the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program
- Jurisdictional issues (I.e. who provides services – Federal Government vs. Provincial Government)
- Lack of access to Traditional Healing and Medicine

2. Reflection: After watching the video with Lisa Pitawanakwat, Medicine Lodge Keeper, Health Sciences North, take a moment to reflect on the culturally relevant care services provided by your centre. Are there any spaces, programs or support specifically available to First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and urban Indigenous patients?

Answer: Self-reflection question. Points to consider:

- Are there Indigenous Healing Spaces in your centre?
- Is smudging available in your centre?
- Are there posters or resources targeted towards First Nation, Inuit, Métis, and urban Indigenous patients?
- Are there Indigenous Navigators available to support patients?