

# Development of an Online Multi-Module Elective Telehealth Course for Nurses

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Providing remote patients with the opportunity to receive quality healthcare, education and information by way of technology is just one of the many benefits of telehealth. Although the concept has been around for many years, new technological advancements have helped telehealth emerge as an important and viable resource for healthcare professionals and patients. The increasing use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in healthcare requires professional training and education – and nursing schools are beginning to implement telehealth specific curriculum to keep up with this growing field that is transforming patient care delivery. It is essential for nurses working in telehealth to have the knowledge, skills and training in order to provide safe, effective and holistic care. The McGill Ingram School of Nursing (ISoN) will be the first school in Canada that will offer a course for nurses to develop and update their knowledge and skills in telehealth. This elective telehealth course consists of 6 online, interactive, multimedia modules to introduce nursing students to the interface between technology and healthcare delivery, and the competencies required to provide safe and holistic care remotely. Module 1 – *Telehealth Nursing Practice* – provides an overview of how telehealth has evolved in national and international contexts. In module 2 – *Telehealth Nursing Services* – examples of telehealth services are presented and in module 3 – *Telehealth Technologies* – current and future telehealth systems are discussed. Module 4 – *Telehealth Management & Organization* – considers a number of the legal, ethical, economic and organizational issues that affect successful implementation and service delivery; and modules 5&6 – *Hands on Training and Site Visits* – provide students with practical and observational experiences related to several telehealth technologies and applications. This course is using the conceptual framework defined by Arnaert et al. (2009) that identified several competencies under the themes *General Skills* (e.g., relational practice and assessment), *Adapting Practice* (e.g., knowing the person), and *New Skills* (e.g., networking and marketing). It is designed for nursing undergraduate students, who finished their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of nursing as knowledge and experience of the general clinical skills are required. However the opportunity will be explored to integrate this course in a continuing education program and to enroll students from sites outside of McGill. Overall, this course will provide nurses the knowledge, competencies and hands-on skills in telehealth and will be suitable for nurses who wish to enhance their understanding of and ability to work effectively with ICT.

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