Pearls from Breakout Session #2
CRNBC Decision Support Tools and RN Scope of Practice

• This breakout session looked at RN Scope of Practice from both a policy and a practice perspective.

• Barbara Willson, a Practice Consultant with CRNBC, discussed the “RN Scope of Practice” document and Decision Support Tools for immunizing nurses.

• Jasmeen Gahunia, a Communicable Disease Nurse Coordinator with Fraser Health, discussed her expanded role around management of Adverse Events following Immunization.
Controls on Nursing Practice

- Regulation refers to the Health Professions Act
- CRNBC Standards, Limits and Conditions are outlined in the Scope of Practice for Registered Nurses, which refers to activities that nurses are educated and authorized to perform (available at https://www.crnbc.ca/Standards/Lists/StandardResources/433ScopeforRegisteredNurses.pdf)
- Employer policies will determine what the RN can do in a workplace
- The individual competence of the RN
  The nurse is responsible for assessing his/her capability to carry out an activity
Decision Support Tools

- The Decision Support Tools for immunizing without a physician’s order are the BC Communicable Disease Control Guidelines Chapter 1: Management of Specific Diseases and Chapter 2: Immunization Program.
- Not all specific situations will be covered in the guidelines: nurses can seek advice from other health professionals to determine the most appropriate nursing intervention for a client. Nurses can consult with other nurses.
- Direction from a colleague would include a reference/rationale for the action to be taken.
- Nurses seeking direction are solely accountable for performing the action recommended.
Fraser Health: “Realizing the Potential of Our Scope of Practice”

- Jasmeen Gahunia has a key role in the management of Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI)
- This role developed following a review of existing AEFI management in FHA (e.g., workload, wait times for a recommendation)
- Jasmeen works closely with the MHO, consulting the MHO as needed
- This expanded role is within the Scope of Practice for nurses

- The role involves reviewing all AEFIs, making decisions for future immunizations or making recommendations to a family physician for further follow-up.
- Recommendations are supported by references or rationale for the action
- This model could be used in other regions
- This expanded role is of benefit to the clients