

## Specialty: **Mental Health Nurse— Mental Health & Addictions Team (MHART)**

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### Education and Training

- Bachelor's degree in Nursing (BScN) is preferred
- Current Registration as a Registered Nurse with the College of Nurses (Province Specific)
- An additional post-graduate certificate in Psychiatric Nursing is preferred
- Current certificate in CPR
- Minimum 2-3 years of experience in psychiatric nursing in a psychiatric setting
- Community psychiatric or community health experience preferred
- Knowledge of infection prevention and control interventions

### Roles and Responsibilities

The Mental Health (MH) Nurse provides services in health promotion, health protection and disease treatment related to mental health support and liaison for individuals and their caregivers with mental health disorders and under the direction of the Senior Management Team of Niagara Region Public Health (NRPH) and guided by Ontario Mental Health ACT and the College of Nurses of Ontario standards.

The MH Nurse combines knowledge from mental health, social and nursing sciences in assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of mental health programs and services. Services are provided through clinical settings, and/or home/community visits, agency liaison and collaboration. The MH Nurse works according to program specific plans, policies and procedures of Niagara Region Public Health.

### Impact

The MHART nurse provides real-time response to 911 callers experiencing a mental health or addictions crisis. The nurse works in a Niagara EMS SUV with a paramedic and is able to provide "boots on the ground" for people in all 12 municipalities of the Niagara Region. Whenever possible, the MHART members are able to divert callers from going to the ER with paramedics in an ambulance when that might not be the most appropriate need at that time. MHART can connect the individual with more appropriate services tailored to their immediate needs.

