

SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

Social work is a regulated health profession in Newfoundland and Labrador. There are over 1700 social workers registered to practice social work throughout the province. Social workers adhere to a Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice in providing essential, competent, and high-quality services.

Registered Social Workers in emergency departments provide essential services and supports for individuals requiring urgent health and mental health care services by:

- Completing bio-psychosocial assessments and assisting with discharge planning to ensure that all patients have adequate supports.
- Developing treatment interventions to address the financial, practical, physical, social, and emotional impacts of their illness and/or injury.
- Working as a member of the interdisciplinary team with patients and their families/caregivers to build on strengths, understand challenges, and develop plans to meet individual needs.
- Providing resource and supportive counselling to patients and their families/caregivers.
- Referring and connecting patients to appropriate services and community resources within the hospital and the community.
- Promoting self-advocacy and intervening to help individuals navigate the healthcare system and community resources.
- Serving as a liaison between acute care and community supports/services.
- Providing crisis intervention through trauma informed practice and supportive counselling pertaining to grief/bereavement and adjustment issues with patients and their family.

Further information about the social work profession can be found at www.nlcsw.ca or by contacting:

Newfoundland & Labrador
College of Social Workers

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