

SNS COLLEGE OF NURSING COIMBATORE -35

Course : B.Sc. Nursing

Semester : VII

Subject : Community Health Nursing-II

Unit : I

Topic : Referral system

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Introduction

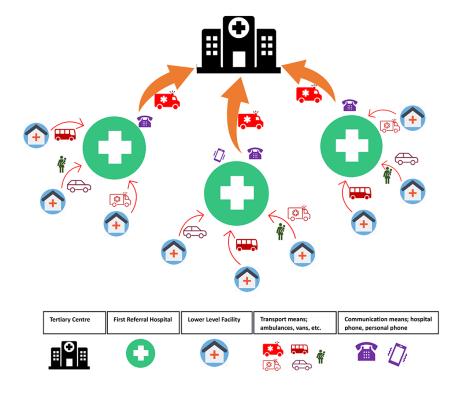
A referral system is a process for transferring patients or cases from a healthcare facility with limited resources to a higher-level facility that has the necessary resources to provide a higher standard of care. Its purpose is to ensure patients receive appropriate, effective, and timely treatment when a facility's technical competence or resources are insufficient.





Definition09-11-2025

A referral system is a mechanism that enables a patient's health needs to be comprehensively managed using resources beyond those available at the location they access care from, be it in a community unit, dispensary, health Centre or a higher-level facility.



Levels of referral



TCCC

Tertiary Care Cancer Centers (regional cancer or state cancer centers)

Medical Colleges

Screening, diagnostics, treatment (surgery, radiation, chemotherapy) and palliative care services

District Hospital Diagnosis and management of common NCDs
Opportunistic screening
Detailed Lab investigations and diagnostics
Referral of Complicated cases to higher facilities

CHC/NCD Clinic Diagnosis and management of common NCDs
Opportunistic screening
Lab investigations and diagnostics (basic, may be outsourced)
Referral of complicated cases
Health promotion including counseling

PHC/ Subcenter (health and wellness center)

Population-based screening and outreach activities

Health promotion activities

(camps organized at village levels/opportunistic screening)

Referral to nearby health facility/CHC

Component of referral system



Components of a referral system

- 1. Health System
- 2. Initiating facility
- 3. Referral practicalities
 - 4. Receiving facility
- 5. Supervision and capacity building

Reason for referral





Location Care

Types of referral



Types of Referral

Routine

- Seeking expert opinion for diagnosis and prognosis.
- Seeking hospital admission and management for the case.
- Seeking further investigations

Emergency

 To reach the expert on time before occurrence of deterioration with providing all expected information in referral letter.

Opportunistic

- For expert opinion
- Investigation
- Admission
- Management

Process of referral





INVITATION

Your practice invites referring doctors to the Referral Portal.



SCHEDULING

Referring doctor schedules real-time before patient leaves the office.



UPDATES

Real-time status updates between doctors throughout the process.



MESSAGING

Chart notes, tests, images exchanged via HIPAA-secure messaging.



OUTCOME

Outcome sent to referring doctor to close the loop.









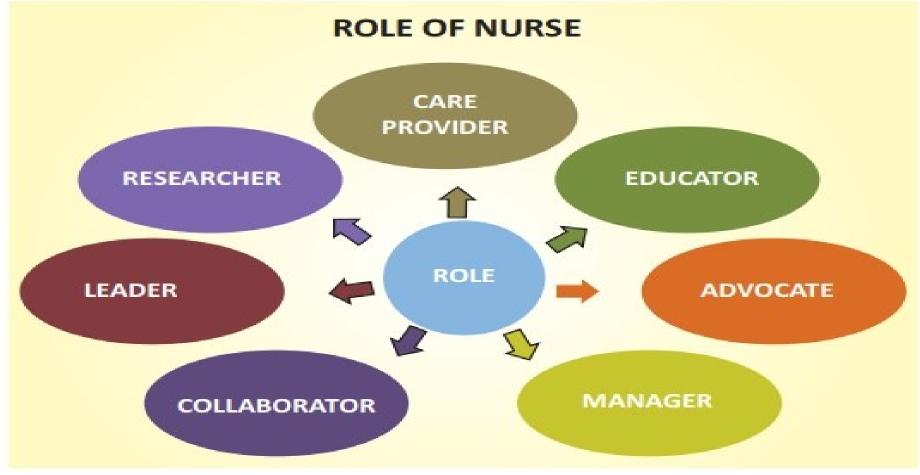
Characteristics of referral

- ✓ Patient should be given optimal care at the right level, right time and right cost.
- ✓ Optimal and cost-efficient utilization of health care system.
- ✓ Optimal and appropriate utilization of specialist services for needy persons
- ✓ Optimal utilization of primary health care services.



Role of nurse





conclusion



A strong referral system in community health nursing is crucial for providing comprehensive and cost-effective care by connecting different levels of the healthcare system. Its conclusion is that its effectiveness depends on strong coordination, efficient communication (including digital tools), trained staff, and public awareness.



