



Standard of Practice

Nail Care

This standard of practice is to support the CSW in providing safe, respectful and effective personal care to the public population in a dignified and ethical approach. Standards of Practice outline the expectations of the CSW and their responsibility in the delivery of care.

Nail Care

Includes cleaning and maintaining nails at a reasonable length.

Nails are clipped with clippers and filed smoothly as not to scratch or catch on clothing or bedding.

If the person(s) is unable to file their nails using a metal file or Emery board, the person(s) would require a Care Support Worker. The CSW may engage in soaking the nails and applying lotion as part of the routine hygiene, the CSW may smooth rough edges of the nails using a nail file or Emery board. The CSW may cut finger and toe nails if it is directed in the Plan of Care and there is not a diagnosis of Diabetes, Vascular impairment or on medication that thins the blood.

It is important that the CSW has received the proper training and also it is important for the CSW to be aware of the policy of the facility that they are working in.

Nail trimming is to be performed by a skilled licensed professional if vascular disease, diabetes or if the person(s) is on certain medications that thins the blood. Endocrine diseases such as diabetes can cause poor circulation to an extremity and a cut or nick that might not heal can cause infection and further skin breakdown. Therefore a Care Support Worker CANNOT perform these tasks when these diseases are present.