Public health nurses in Washington State who serve children with special health care needs (CSHCN) have sought a standardized way to document for quality improvement purposes how their services benefit CSHCN.

The Maternal Child Health Bureau defines CSHCN as “those who have or are at increased risk for a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally.”

Results of this study will be used by the Washington State Children with Special Health Care Needs Program to focus nursing activities on the problems most likely to be encountered by PHNs serving the CSHCN population. Additionally, these results will be used to further refine the program evaluation process.

Acknowledgments: The authors would like to acknowledge the public health nurses of Washington State, the families of children with special health care needs, and the Omaha System Partnership for Knowledge Discovery and Health Care Quality.