



Are You Still Practicing Nursing?

WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING YOUR REGISTRATION STATUS

During annual [renewal](#), all registrants must decide what registration status they need for the upcoming year.

For most, the decision is straightforward. For other, particularly those who are retiring, going on leave, changing roles, or stepping away from traditional nursing employment – it may be less clear.

The important question is not simply whether you are working. It is whether the activities you plan to perform constitute nursing practice and require practicing registration.

Here are four tips to help you decide.

Tip 1: Is the Role or Activity Nursing Practice?

When deciding whether you need to be registered, start by looking at the role or activity itself. Using nursing knowledge, skills, or judgment is an important consideration, but it does not automatically mean that an activity is nursing practice. For an activity to be recognized by CNNB as active nursing practice, it must meet the definition of nursing practice and require nursing knowledge and education. Nursing practice is not limited to direct clinical care. It may occur in education, administration, research, consulting, self-employment, and other roles. If you work in a non-traditional, non-clinical, emerging or self-employed role and are unsure whether your activities constitute nursing practice, contact [CNNB](#). An [Assessment of Nursing Practice](#) may be required.

Tip 2: Your Employment Status is Not Your Practice Status

Retiring, leaving a long-term position, or changing careers does not necessarily mean that you have stopped practicing nursing. Nursing practice may occur through paid employment, casual or contract work, consulting, self-employment, or volunteer activities. What matters is the nature of the activities you are performing and whether they meet the requirements for recognized nursing practice.



Tip 3: Going on Leave? Consider What You'll Be Doing While You're Away

Being on maternity, parental, disability, sick, or another type of leave does not, on its own, determine what registration status you need. If you will not be practicing nursing while you are away from your regular position, you may not need to maintain registration during that time. However, consider whether you plan to engage in other activities while on leave. You may intend to work casually, consult, teach, volunteer, or participate in another profession role. Depending on the nature of those activities, registration may still be required. If you're unsure, contact [CNNB](#) before changing your registration status or allowing your registration to lapse.

Tip 4: You Need Valid Registration to Practice Nursing

RNs and NPs must hold valid practicing registration with CNNB before engaging in nursing practice in New Brunswick. Practicing nursing without valid registration is unauthorized practice. Hours worked while you are not authorized to practice cannot be counted toward your currency requirements. You may also be without professional liability protection for that practice and may be subject to additional fees or regulatory action. If you choose not to maintain practicing registration, make sure you obtain the appropriate registration before returning to nursing practice.

Not Sure? Ask before you change your status.

Nursing roles continue to evolve, and it is not always obvious whether a particular role or activity constitutes nursing practice. If you are retiring, taking a leave, changing careers, working in a non-traditional role, or considering whether you still need registration, contact [CNNB](#) for guidance before making a change. A little clarification in advance can help ensure you have the registration status you need for the activities you plan to perform.