



## Fact Sheet: Graduate Nurse Scope of Practice

The College of Nursing of New Brunswick (CNNB) is the regulatory body for graduate nurses (GNs), registered nurses (RNs), graduate nurse practitioners and nurse practitioners in New Brunswick. The GN scope of practice is outlined in this document, including limitations that GNs are accountable to respect and to communicate to employers and other health care team members.

GNs are on the CNNB temporary register and are authorized to practice nursing as defined by CNNB Rule 1.18 and 1.19.

### Rule 1.18: Entitlement of Persons in the Temporary Register

A person whose name is entered in the temporary register may provide basic nursing care in accordance with the College's [Entry-Level Competencies](#) as adopted and amended by the Board from time to time.

### Rule 1.19: Restrictions on Persons in the Temporary Register

A person whose name is entered in the temporary register **shall not**:

- a) Perform those functions identified as “delegated medical functions” by the employer;
- b) Supervise the provision of nursing care by RNs or other GNs;
  - Supervision entails initial direction, periodic inspection and corrective action when needed. It is the active process of directing, assigning, delegating, guiding, or monitoring an individual's performance of an activity to influence its outcome (CNPS, 2012).
- c) Be in charge of a nursing unit or facility;
  - A GN cannot accept the responsibility for the operation of a nursing unit or facility or the overall supervision of care for that nursing unit or facility. Furthermore, GNs cannot be in charge during the lunch and health breaks of the RN that is responsible for the unit.
- d) Practise without having access to a RN within the facility for direct assistance; and
  - While the GN is responsible and accountable for their own nursing practice, they need to have onsite access to an RN at all times for assistance and consultation or in the event of an emergency.
- e) Accept employment in which it is required to practice contrary to the Act, bylaws or rules.

GNs are expected to:

- practice according to [legislation](#), the [Code of Conduct for Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners](#), the [standards of practice](#) and organisational requirements;
- provide safe, competent, and ethical nursing practice in a variety of settings;
- initiate and participate in the implementation of the [nursing care plan](#);
- know, respect and communicate the limitations on the GN practice; and
- function within their own level of competence.



GNs are entry-level practitioners whose nursing practice, autonomy, and ability will develop best with collaboration, mentoring, and support. Mentoring will contribute to increasing their knowledge and skill, and ability to independently deliver nursing practice with confidence and efficiency.

A GN may have additional conditions and/or restrictions on their practice. It is important that the GN is accountable to and communicates any conditions and/or restrictions on their practice. Registration status and any conditions and/or restrictions are available on the CNNB [Public Directory](#).

For any questions in regard to the GN scope of practice, please contact a Nurse Consultant at [consultation@cnnb-opinb.ca](mailto:consultation@cnnb-opinb.ca).

## Resources

[\*Entry-Level Competencies \(ELCs\) for the Practice of Registered Nurses in New Brunswick\*](#)

[\*Transition to Nursing Practice Toolkit\*](#)

[\*Fact Sheet: Mentoring and Supporting Learners\*](#)

## References

Canadian Nurses Protective Society. (2012). *InfoLAW: Supervision*. <https://cnps.ca/article/supervision/>