Nurses Association
OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Guideline for Recognition of Nursing Practice

Mandate

Regulation for safe, competent, and ethical care.

Under the *Nurses Act*, NANB is legally responsible to protect the public by regulating registrants of the nursing profession in New Brunswick. Regulation makes this profession, and nurses as individuals, accountable to the public for the delivery of safe, competent, and ethical nursing care.

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Introduction

The Nurses Association of New Brunswick (NANB) recognizes that nurses[1] are engaged in a variety of roles and activities. As a result, it is difficult to identify all the roles and responsibilities that fall within the definition of *active nursing practice* (see Appendix A). This document outlines the rationale for requiring recognition of nursing practice and the process to determine if the practice falls within the definition of active nursing practice.

Recognition of Nursing Practice

Recognition of nursing practice is often required when a nurse undertakes a non-clinical role, enters an emerging area of practice, seeks to work as an independent contractor or within the private sector, or affiliates with or operates a self-employed practice. It is the responsibility of the registrant to contact NANB to ensure that the proposed practice will be recognized as nursing practice. All practicing nurses in New Brunswick (NB) must hold a practicing nurse membership with NANB. NANB does not recognize or approve self-employed businesses. The role of NANB is to assess the proposed nursing practice and determine if it is nursing practice.

Recognition of nursing practice is required for

- practice hour requirements for registration renewal and/or reinstatement,
- use of professional title (registered nurse [RN] and nurse practitioner [NP] are protected titles and can only be used when engaged in recognized nursing practice), and
- professional liability coverage (coverage only applies to recognized nursing practice).

A registrant may only accrue hours of nursing practice for the purpose of registration renewal while registered as a practicing member of NANB, or in the jurisdiction where the practice took place, and for activities recognized as nursing practice. More information on the required hours for registration can be found by visiting the NANB registration services webpage.

[1] For the purposes of this document, the term ''nurse'' refers to registered nurses and nurse practitioners.

Assessment of Nursing Practice

> *It is not enough to say that because a nurse is employed in a particular position that the work being done is nursing. Furthermore, the fact that nursing knowledge helps to inform or perform a particular practice or type of work does not mean that the practice is nursing practice* (College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba, 2018).

NANB is responsible to protect the public by regulating members of the nursing profession. Regulation makes the profession of nursing, and nurses as individuals, accountable to the public for the delivery of safe, competent, and ethical nursing care. As such, assessment of nursing practice is multifactorial. An assessment of nursing practice (see Appendix B) is required to determine if a proposed practice qualifies as nursing practice. Determination of what constitutes nursing practice in NB involves evaluating the specific practice in question in the context of the *Nurses Act*, NANB *Rules*, *By-laws*, and standards, and determination if the practice is grounded in the NB entry-level competencies or is a beyond entry-level competency. NANB would also consider whether the practice is best-practice and/or evidence-informed.

Application Process

An assessment of nursing practice requires completion of an application and submission of any supporting documents. Once the application is complete, it can be returned to NANB at nanbregistration@nanb.nb.ca for assessment. Should it be deemed that information is missing or additional supporting information is required, the application will be returned to the applicant with further instructions. Applicants will be notified of the determination of the assessment by email within 4-6 weeks of receipt of the application. The time required to complete an assessment may increase if additional information is required.

For questions regarding recognition of nursing practice, please contact NANB at nanbregistration@nanb.nb.ca.

Appendix A

NANB Rules

2.01 Active Practice of Nursing

Pursuant to By-law 1.03D, active practice of nursing means practices in any of the following roles:

(a) Practitioner:

A nurse who is engaged primarily in the direct care of patients in any of the following settings: institutional, community, physician office, self-employed.

(b) Educator:

A nurse who is engaged primarily in the teaching of those who are or will be involved in giving care to patients such as in: health care agencies, faculty of nursing, school of nursing, Community College.

(c) Administrator:

(i) a nurse who is engaged primarily in the management of nursing services or nursing education; and

(ii) a nurse with administrative responsibilities in a hospital or agency which promotes quality care or provides patient care.

(d) Researcher:

A nurse who is engaged primarily in research activity related to nursing.

(e) Nursing Consultant:

A nurse who is engaged primarily in an advisory capacity regarding nursing or some specific area of health care.

Definition: Active practice nurse practitioner

"Active practice" means practice in primary health care as a nurse practitioner and defined as follows:

(a) A nurse practitioner who is engaged primarily in the direct care of patients; which includes:

(i) making a diagnosis to identify a disease, disorder or condition,

(ii) communicating the diagnosis to the patient,

(iii) ordering and interpreting selected screening and diagnostic tests; selecting,

recommending, prescribing and monitoring the effectiveness of selected drugs and interventions,

(iv) performing procedures integral to client care,

(v) consulting with physicians and other health care professionals,

(vi) collaborating with physicians and other health care professionals, and

(vii) managing client health care.

Appendix B

Assessment of Nursing Practice Application

General Information:

Name: NANB Registration Number:

Job Title:

Business/employer name:

Practice Description:

1. Describe your nursing practice.
2. Which nursing practice role best describes your nursing practice (see Appendix A in the *Guideline for Recognition of Nursing Practice* for role descriptions)?
3. Describe the client(s) of your nursing practice.
4. Explain how best-practice and evidence-informed practice is incorporated into your practice.
5. How do you ensure that you possess the required competencies to offer the service(s)? Describe educational preparation and experiential knowledge.
6. Explain how the nursing process (assessment, planning, intervention, and evaluation) is be applied within your nursing practice. Provide explanation of assessments/evaluations and/or examples of assessment/evaluation tools.
7. Provide your job description, this is required by all applicants.

NPs only

8. Explain how the following will be incorporated into your practice:
   a) diagnosing or assessing a disease, disorder, or condition, and communicating the diagnosis or assessment to the client;
   b) ordering and interpreting screening and diagnostic tests;
   c) selecting, prescribing, and monitoring the effectiveness of drugs; and
   d) ordering the application of forms of energy.

Note: This is for reference purposes only, for a copy of the application click here.

SAMPLE

Reference

College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba. (2018). *Is my practice registered nursing practice?* https://crnm.mb.ca/resource/is-my-practice-registered-nursing-practice-2/

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