



Guiding principles for determining the appropriate nursing care professional

As regulated nursing professionals, we all want the best possible care for the people of Saskatchewan. To that end, we have partnered together to recommend that these principles guide the process for determining that the right nursing professional provides care to the right client at the right time. Determining the appropriate nursing professional ensures safe, competent and ethical care.

We agree to the following principles:

1. The nursing professional, the client and the environment - all three factors – must guide decisions about which nursing professional is appropriate for a client’s care.
2. When determining the appropriate nursing professional, the main focus should be centered on the needs of the client.
3. The practice of all nursing professionals is based on the integration of knowledge, skill, judgment and personal attributes. It cannot be reduced to a list of tasks.
4. The knowledge base of each entry-level to practice varies among the three nursing professions. While there are some common core elements, the education for each nursing profession is not the same in breadth, depth and focus.
5. There is some overlap in the Scope of Practice of the nursing professions. This means that, in some situations, all three may have the knowledge, skill, judgment and personal attributes to provide care. In other situations, the knowledge, skill, judgment and personal attributes required may be unique to one of the nursing professions.
6. Members of the three nursing professions are not interchangeable. This is because there are differences in the legislation, basic education, scope of practice, knowledge, skills, judgment and personal attributes of each.
7. Members of all three nursing professions are responsible, accountable and legally liable for the services they provide. A member of one nursing profession cannot assume responsibility for the care provided by a member of another nursing profession.
8. Employers must ensure there are mechanisms (e.g. policies, procedures, guidelines, resources, job descriptions) to support the:
 - continuity of client care;
 - staffing decisions that are evidence-informed and take into account the client, the nursing professional and environmental factors;
 - collaboration, communication, and consultation;
 - role descriptions that reflect Scope of Practice for each of the three nursing professions;and
 - Standards of Practice and the Code of Ethics for each nursing profession.
9. Each professional nursing body is available for consultation with members, employers and the public. Please contact SALPN at jduesterbeck@salpn.com
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