

Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association

Registered Nurse (Nurse Practitioner) RN(NP) Scope of Practice and the Law

Information Sheet

On April 30, 2004 SRNA began licencing RN(NP)s in the province of Saskatchewan. This information sheet is intended to explain the scope of practice of the RN(NP) in relation to the law. Seven regulations were amended to support the practice of the RN(NP). The following is an outline of the laws, as well as the regulations, and how those same laws and regulations guide the boundaries of the RN(NP) practice.

All RN(NP)s are bound to practice within the:

- RN Act 1988 (amended 2001)
- SRNA Bylaws 2004
- RN(NP) Standards and Core Competencies 2003
- Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses – Canadian Nurses Association 2002

The following is list of the regulations with descriptions of the RN(NP) practice within that regulation.

1. The Attending Health Professionals Regulations 2004
 - all such radiological examinations performed in a regional health authority (RHA) or health care organization (HCO) facility will be reviewed by a radiologist who makes a written report which will become part of the client's file.
 - allows RN(NP)s to register a client as an out-patient for treatment and diagnostic services and to then discharge the patient. This can be done in hospitals or health centres operated by a RHA or HCO.
 - RN(NP)s cannot admit a client in an in-patient facility.
 - RN(NP)s can register a client for out-patient treatment and diagnostic services either as an employee of the facility or as a non-employee through a contract with the facility.
 - RN(NP)s will be able to register a client as an out-patient for out-patient treatment and diagnostic services.
 - RN(NP)s will be able to attend on client, diagnose and treat common medical disorders in out-patient facility.
 - RN(NP)s cannot admit a client for in-patient treatment and services.
 - RN(NP)s can provide healthcare to in patient clients in collaboration with the attending physician.
 - RN(NP)s can discharge out-patient she or he is attending.
 - RN(NP)s who are not employees of a RHA or HCO can sign a contract with such a facility to send samples or a client to the specified facility for treatment or a diagnosis.

2. The Hospital Standards Regulations 1980 (amended 2004)
 - section 17 states that orders made by a RN(NP) are to be recorded in the client's health record.
 - sections 7 and 14 authorize a RN(NP) to sign on out-patient health records and that orders made by a RN(NP) are recorded in the client's health record.
3. The Medical Laboratory Licensing Amendment Regulations 2004
 - authorizes laboratories to perform tests ordered by RN(NP)s.
4. The Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Payment Amendment Regulations 2004
 - allows radiologists to be paid for reviewing and making a report regarding a radiological examination ordered by a RN(NP).
5. Drug Schedules Amendments Regulations 2004
 - allows a pharmacist to dispense drugs pursuant to a prescription from a RN(NP).
 - empowers RN(NP)s to prescribe any drug listed in Schedules I, II or III to treat humans subject to the SRNA bylaws and the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Canada)*. (The SRNA council will be amending its bylaw.)
 - **NOTE:** At this time RN(NP)s **cannot** prescribe drugs listed in the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Canada)*.
6. Housing and Special Care Homes Regulations
 - now empowers the nursing staff to carry out orders for care made by a RN(NP).
 - when a RN(NP) has diagnosed and ordered certain treatments for a common medical disorder of a special care home resident, RNs and RPNs can now carry out such orders.
 - RN(NP)s can order residents diet.
 - RN(NP)s can order residents to remain in bed.
 - RNs can seek health care on behalf of the resident from either a RN(NP) or a physician in the case of serious illness or accidents. The RN(NP) can order transfer to a hospital.
 - RN(NP)s can order the isolation of a resident if a communicable disease is suspected or confirmed.
 - staff must carry out orders of RN(NP)s for medications and treatments.
 - RN(NP)s can give medication and treatment order by phone and must sign on next visit.
 - the resident's health record must include the orders and progress notes of a RN(NP).
 - special forms will be provided for notes of RN(NP)s and kept in the personal file of the guest.

- RN(NP)s must date and sign each entry.
7. The Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living Amendment Regulations 2004
- RN(NP)s can prescribe non-formulary drugs, medications, medical supplies to a person with a physical disability under the program.
 - RN(NP)s can also order services and treatments for the person under the program.
8. SAP Supplementary Health Benefits Amendment Regulations 2004
- RN(NP)s can prescribe non-formulary drugs for persons on SAP outside hospital and in long term care facility.
 - RN(NP)s can prescribe mega vitamins and allergy extracts for SAP clients.

SRNA recognizes that this is not a full description of the scope of practice of the RN(NP). The full scope of practice of the RN(NP) is outlined in the SRNA document - RN(NP) Standards and Core Competencies (2003).

2004-04-30

**REGISTERED NURSE (NURSE PRACTITIONER)
LEGISLATION**

The following is an excerpt from *The Registered Nurses Act, 1988* which relates to the RN(NP).

Practice

24(3) Subject to any conditions or restrictions on the nurse's licence, a registered nurse who meets the requirements set out in the bylaws may, in accordance with the bylaws:

- (a) order, perform, receive and interpret reports of screening and diagnostic tests that are designated in the bylaws;
- (b) prescribe and dispense drugs in accordance with the bylaws;
- (c) perform minor surgical and invasive procedures that are designated in the bylaws;
- (d) diagnose and treat common medical disorders.

Attached, find a copy of the corresponding bylaws related to RN(NP).

BYLAW VI - CATEGORIES OF PRACTICE

SECTION 1. CATEGORIES OF PRACTICE.

- (1) The practice of registered nursing shall consist of the following practice categories:
 - (a) general practice category; and
 - (b) nurse practitioner category.

SECTION 2. GENERAL PRACTICE CATEGORY.

- (1) Membership in the general practice category is limited to:
 - (a) a registered nurse who has practising membership status; and
 - (b) a graduate nurse who has graduate nurse membership status.

SECTION 3. NURSE PRACTITIONER CATEGORY.

- (1) Membership in the nurse practitioner category is limited to a registered nurse who has practising membership status in the general practice category and who has been granted a licence to practise within the nurse practitioner category.
- (2) In the course of engaging in the practice of registered nursing in the nurse practitioner category, a registered nurse may, subject to conditions or restrictions imposed on her or his licence, perform the following:
 - (a) diagnose and treat common medical disorders in accordance with the competencies and standards established by council;
 - (b) in accordance with the competencies and standards established by council, order, perform, receive and/or interpret reports of screening and diagnostic tests in the following areas:
 - (i) microbiology;
 - (ii) cytology;
 - (iii) biochemistry;
 - (iv) immunology;
 - (v) haematology;

- (vi) forms of non contrast radiographic energy except MRI; and
- (vii) virology.

(c) prescribe and/or dispense drugs provided for in the Formulary published by Saskatchewan Health as amended from time to time, in the Health Canada Non-Insured Health Benefits list as amended from time to time, and including over the counter drugs, in accordance with the competencies and standards established by council and in accordance with federal legislation; and

(d) in accordance with the competencies and standards established by council, perform minor surgical and invasive procedures in the following areas:

- (i) suturing;
- (ii) irrigation;
- (iii) incision and drainage;
- (iv) excisions;
- (v) intubation; and
- (vi) insertion.

(3) Council may recognize and approve a specialty in the nurse practitioner category and authorize an entry on a member's licence to practise in that specialty in accordance with the competencies and standards it establishes.

(4) In the course of engaging in the practice of registered nursing in the nurse practitioner category, the member shall meet the nurse practitioner standards and competencies established by council, taking into account the specific role of the member.