

# ASK A PRACTICE ADVISOR

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With so much discussion about technology and informatics in nursing, what are my professional obligations as a Registered Nurse?

The SRNA Council has set forth two sub-ends which refer to the use of technology in RN or RN(NP) practice. End 3.3.3 states *Organizations provide appropriate technology to support quality practice.* RNs and RN(NP)s have a responsibility to advocate for the appropriate technology in health care organizations and to also utilize that technology. End 5.1.3 states *RNs and RN(NP)s demonstrate leadership in the use of appropriate communication and information technology.*

As we become more familiar with the *SRNA Standards and Foundation Competencies for the Practice of Registered Nurses 2007*, we are reminded of the purpose of standards and competencies as they relate to the legislated responsibilities of the SRNA. "These standards and foundation competencies serve as the criteria against which all registered nurses, practicing in all domains of nursing practice (direct care, education, administration, research, and policy) will be measured by clients, employers, colleagues, and themselves" (SRNA, 2007, p. 1). The following 4 competencies outline the role of the RN and RN(NP) in utilizing technology and informatics:

11. Demonstrates critical inquiry in relation to new knowledge and technologies as it relates to nursing practice.
29. Demonstrates and utilizes nursing informatics and other information communications technology in promoting and providing safe nursing care.
40. Uses existing health and nursing information systems to manage nursing and health care data during client care.
61. Uses technology appropriately, ensuring client safety.

As an RN in the workplace there are many ways you can advocate for technology to support your practice.

One example would be to develop an understanding of nursing informatics and computer capabilities. This may include lobbying to be a pilot site for the introduction of computers on your unit. Being informed of where to access the most current information is another way of fulfilling your competencies.

Another example of how to enhance your competency in this area and to obtain evidence-based information to support your practice is to use the NurseONE nursing portal. This is a highly recommended and credible resource for SRNA members and RNs across the country. To register on NurseONE, log on to [www.nurseone.ca](http://www.nurseone.ca) and when the home page opens, click on the word "Register" in the blue box on the top left of the screen. You will need an e-mail address and your SRNA registration number to register on NurseONE. Saskatchewan RNs and RN(NP)s are the leaders across the country in our utilization of NurseONE, a statistic of which we are very proud!

Technology and informatics in nursing is growing. To discuss these issues in more depth you can join the Saskatchewan Nursing Informatics Association (SNIA), a professional practice group of the SRNA. Please contact Eithne Reichert, RN at (306) 230-6897 or by e-mail at [ereichert@sasktel.net](mailto:ereichert@sasktel.net), or Della Stumborg, RN, Nursing Practice Advisor, SRNA at 1-800-667-9945 ext 237 or by e-mail at [dstumborg@srna.org](mailto:dstumborg@srna.org) All SRNA documents are available through our website at [www.srna.org](http://www.srna.org)

Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association. (2007). *Standards and Foundation Competencies for the Practice of Registered Nurses, 2007*. Regina, SK: Author.

Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association - Council Ends 2007. Regina, SK: Author