



2066 Retallack Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4T 7X5

**Saskatchewan Registered
Nurses' Association**

POSITION STATEMENT

24 Hour Registered Nurse Coverage

The Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association (SRNA) recognizes the need for the employment of a registered nurse on a 24 hour basis in public and regulated health care facilities for the following reasons:

Primary Care

The World Health Organization defines primary health care as essential health care made universally accessible to individuals and families in the community by means acceptable to them, through their full participation and at a cost the community and country can afford. The essential elements of such a comprehensive health care program for individuals, families and communities are promotion of wellness, prevention of illness, care (during illness), rehabilitation following illness and supportive services. Individuals enter health care facilities with unique and increasingly complex needs. Twenty-four hour registered nursing coverage would ensure individuals in Saskatchewan health care facilities have access to knowledgeable professional, who coordinates and directs the health care team.

Increasing Acuity

At present many clients are maintained in their own homes as long as the community resources are able to support them. Clients entering health care facilities require a higher level of nursing care. The clients in these agencies require the knowledge, skills and judgment of a registered nurse to assess health care problems, to promote self care and self reliance in meeting personal care needs and facilitate early intervention to prevent deterioration in health status.

Evidence-Based Practice

Evidence based nursing care incorporates evidence from research, clinical expertise, and client preferences into decisions about the health care of individual clients. Evidence based nursing practice contributes to the efficiency and effectiveness of health care and quality of life of Canadians. The knowledge, skill, judgment and experience of the registered nurse allows for the implementation of evidence based practices in the delivery of health services. Twenty four hour registered nursing coverage ensures that these practices are implemented / utilized appropriately.

The employment of a registered nurse in health care facilities on a 24 hour basis will facilitate the achievement of the ultimate goal of residents attaining their highest degree of wellness possible. When wellness may not be achieved and death is inevitable, the registered nurse will assist the patient to die with dignity and provide support to the grieving significant others. SRNA believes that a registered nurse at the point of care* should be available on a twenty four hour basis to coordinate and provide care in all health care facilities. SRNA believes that the most effective use of the RN at the point of care occurs when the RN is directly present in the health care facility. In clinical areas where the needs of clients are consistent with the competencies of a registered psychiatric nurse (RPN), SRNA recognizes that a RPN may assume point of care responsibilities.

**The point where a registered nurse is knowledgeable of the client needs based on ongoing nursing assessment and is responsible for the overall care for the client.*

Approved by Council
March, 1991

Reviewed by Council
March, 1996

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"Competent, caring nursing for the people of Saskatchewan"

