



July 12, 2013

Licensed practice nurses (LPNs) and registered nurses (RNs) have a duty to provide evidenced based safe and appropriate nursing care to clients. Evidence has shown that safe and appropriate care can best be achieved through collaboration and cooperation among RNs and LPNs, respecting the contributions of each professional and working together as a team.

The SRNA and the SALPN have been in consultation regarding triaging in Emergency Departments and both support the following excerpt from the National Emergency Nurses Association (NENA) evidenced based position statement on the *'Role of the Triage Registered Nurse (2010)* that states:

"..... TRIAGE is a sorting process that utilizes critical thinking in which an experienced Registered Nurse assesses patients quickly upon arrival to the emergency department. Triage is achieved by rapidly assessing the patient's health problem by determining the severity or acuity of the presenting problem, by processing the patient into a triage category, and by directing the patient to appropriate health resources. Triage is not a static process. Patient conditions change; therefore, it is imperative that the Triage Registered Nurse ensures continual reassessment of the patient. NENA believes that only a Registered Nurse who has the appropriate educational background and emergency experience shall be qualified to perform the triage function in the emergency department." (p.1)

Please feel free to contact SALPN or SRNA if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Eisler".

Karen Eisler, RN, PhD  
Executive Director  
Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association  
[keisler@srna.org](mailto:keisler@srna.org)  
Phone: (306) 359-4200 ext 235

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynsay Donald".

Lynsay Donald, LPN  
Executive Director  
Saskatchewan Association of Licensed Practical Nurses  
[LDonald@salpn.com](mailto:LDonald@salpn.com)  
Phone: (306) 525-1436 ext 227