

## Clinical Questions

### **I manage RNs but am not an RN myself. What considerations should I make when addressing clinical practice questions that I do not have the expertise to answer?**

There are several questions that can assist you in obtaining information to inform your decision:

- What is the anticipated safe outcome?
- What is the indication for the medication, treatment or procedure?
- Is there policy and procedure that supports the practice?
- What is the current best practice evidence?
- How do the SRNA RN practice standards, entry-level competencies and code of ethics apply to the situation?
- Are there other SRNA guidelines to refer to?
  - *For example:*
    - Documentation Guideline;
    - Graduate Nurse Practice Guideline;
    - Medication Management for RNs; and/or,
    - Collaborative Decision-Making Framework
- Do the nurses have the resources available to them to ensure the practice is carried out safely?
  - *For example:*
    - Are there sufficient supplies?
    - Are there sufficient staff to manage all the patients on the unit?
    - Is there a physician or NP available to be consulted with and who can provide additional orders if needed?
- What is the best decision in the interest of the patient?

### **RN clinical practice requires oversight from an RN. What is the process I should follow if I am struggling to come to a decision about clinical practice issues?**

Seek out the expert advice of RNs in one or more of these roles to assist you in resolving the issue:

- Experienced RNs from your unit;
- RN manager from another unit;
- Clinical Nurse Educator;
- More senior RN leader; and/or,
- SRNA Practice Advisor

### **Is there an SRNA resource for RN clinical practice that I can use on my unit/in my facility?**

**Yes.** There are many documents available to you on the SRNA website. The SRNA has developed RN Specialty Practices (RNSP) that allow for autonomous practice within the legislated scope and individual RN competence. There are standards, employer and RN guidelines to support the development of RNSPs. RNSPs will apply in diverse clinical practice settings.

*RN is used to represent all SRNA members including NPs and RN(AAP)s.*

## **SRNA Resources**

[Code of Ethics for registered nurses, 2017](#)  
[Registered Nurse Practice Standards, 2019](#)  
[Registered Nurse Entry-level Competencies, 2019](#)  
[Standards and Competencies for RN Specialty Practices, 2016](#)  
[RN Specialty Practices: RN Guidelines, 2016](#)  
[RN Specialty Practices: Employer Guidelines, 2016](#)  
[RN Specialty Practices Learning Module](#)