

RN Tasks – Where’s the List?

I am a relatively new manager and I need the list of all the nursing activities or tasks that RNs can perform. Please tell me where to find the list!

- Unfortunately, there is no list. Registered nursing practice is very complex and dynamic in nature and is performed in a multitude of care settings. It cannot be reduced to a list of tasks or nursing activities.
- RNs have the foundational knowledge to provide and coordinate care for all levels of complexity and client types, including individual clients, families, groups, communities and populations (1).
- If the client condition begins to change, the RN possesses the knowledge, skill and judgment to recognize, anticipate, assess and manage the change (1).
- RNs perform and coordinate care in a holistic manner (1).
- RN practice in a specific setting is based on client need and is supported through employer policies and procedures which describe the RN role in a particular activity (2).
- RNs are required to obtain further education for specific activities prior to adding these activities to their scope of practice (3).
- RN Specialty Practices have been developed to allow for autonomous practice within the legislated scope and individual RN competence (4).

If there is no list of nursing activities or tasks for me to refer to, what can I access to help me understand what RNs can and should do in our practice settings?

The SRNA has documents that help managers and others understand the scope of practice, roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of registered nurses. Please refer to the chart below to determine which documents are available and how to use them.

| SRNA Resource | How it can be used |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The Registered Nurses Act, 1988 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the legislated scope of practice for Registered Nurses (Section 2k). • Is the basis for all standards of practice for RNs. |
| Registered Nurse Practice Standards (2019) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets the minimum standards to which RNs are expected to practice. • Used as a basis for professional development of RNs throughout their career. • Is used by RNs as a basis to advocate for safe patient care. |

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

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| Registered Nurse Entry-Level Competencies (2019) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Together with RN practice standards provides the foundation of RN practice. • Guides development and assessment of nursing education programs. • Used as a basis for professional development of RNs throughout their career. |
| CNA Code of Ethics (2017) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the foundation of ethical practice for RNs. • Sets the ethical standards to which RNs are expected to practice. • Can be used for professional development of RNs. • Is used by RNs as a basis to advocate for safe patient care. |
| Interpretation of the RN Scope of Practice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines the professional scope of practice for RNs in Saskatchewan. • Provides information about how RN scope of practice has been determined. • Describes the RN responsibility and accountability for coordination of care and assignment. • Highlights the evolving scope of practice for RNs including RN Specialty Practices, NPs, RNs with Additional Authorized Practices, and delegation from a physician to an RN. |

In my orientation to the manager role, I learned a bit about RN Specialty Practices. I was told that RNSPs are necessary in most practice areas. If there isn't a list of these specialized nursing activities, how can I learn more?

Most work settings require RNs to perform RN Specialty Practices (RNSPs) that meet the care needs of the client population they care for. RNSPs impact the majority of SRNA members. The chart below outlines SRNA resources that may help you expand your knowledge of RNSPs.

| SRNA Resource | How it can be used |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Standards and Competencies for RN Specialty Practices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explains what RN Specialty Practices are and how they can be implemented. • Outlines the standards and competencies required to establish and carry out RNSPs in clinical settings. |

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| RN Specialty Practices: RN Guidelines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defines what RN specialty practices are and how RNs can assist in the development and implementation of RNSPs in clinical settings. |
| RN Specialty Practices: Employer Guidelines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines the employer’s role and responsibility for developing policy that supports and enables RNs to perform RNSPs. |
| RN Specialty Practices Learning Module | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers the opportunity to develop new skills and a deeper understanding of RNSPs. |

Are there activities that are within the practice of medicine that a duly qualified medical practitioner may delegate to a registered nurse?

Yes. As the care of complex clients evolve, opportunities arise for the inclusion of additional RN delegated medical activities and services. These activities are limited in number and are clearly identified in the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons’ Bylaws and re-stated in the SRNA [Guidelines for Physician to RN Delegation](#) (2016) (5).

| Resource Key | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Number | Resource | Reference |
| 1 | Interpretation of the RN Scope of Practice (2015) | page 2 |
| 2 | Standards and Competencies for RN Specialty Practices (2016) | page 5 |
| 3 | Standards and Competencies for RN Specialty Practices (2016) | Competency 13, page 6 |
| 4 | RN Specialty Practices: RN Guidelines | page 5 |
| 5 | Guidelines for Physician to RN Delegation (2016) | page 2-3 |

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