



Nurse Practitioner FAQ's

If I am registered as a NP, can I still work as a RN?

Yes, but there are several things to consider. Nurse practitioners in NB are also Registered Nurses and accountable for both the Standards of Practice for NPs and RNs.

Before accepting to take on the role of an RN you must determine whether or not you have the knowledge and competence to work with this specific client population. Once this determination is made and you accept the work assignment, it has to be clear to the employer, the health care team and clients that you are practicing as a registered nurse and not as a NP. When being asked to work with admitted patients, you have to practice as an RN; you cannot work as an NP because NPs in New Brunswick don't have the authority to practice on in-patient units. This means you are not authorized to diagnose, order tests and prescribe medication and furthermore, these functions are outside the scope of practice of an RN. Also, you must utilize the designation RN when identifying yourself or when providing your signature.

However, because you are also an NP, you will be expected to apply your knowledge in advanced health assessment which means that you may assess and identify client issues that an RN might not. If so, you would be expected to report your assessment findings to another provider (for example, a physician) for follow up.