



Memo

To: Nursing Education Programs

From: The Nurses Association of New Brunswick (NANB)

Date: March 26, 2020

Re: Effect of COVID-19 pandemic on nursing education programs, faculty, and students

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to rapidly evolve, NANB is aware of the impact on nursing education programs, faculty, and students, and we want to extend our help as needed. The safety of clients, staff, and students is our shared priority.

In response to directives from education institutions or health care agencies, nursing programs may be required to move to virtual or on-line instruction, cancel classes, labs and/or student clinical placements. We recognize that nursing programs will be required to offer flexible alternate learning opportunities while ensuring students are prepared to practice safely, ethically and competently upon successful completion of their program.

Below are a few key points to consider as nursing programs adjust and plan for learning during this pandemic.

- Nursing programs have the authority to plan alternate learning methods should planned student learning experiences become unavailable. Nursing programs are required to advise NANB of any **substantial changes** to the nursing program.
- Substantial changes would include for example any major alterations in learning activities including clinical placements.
- Learning opportunities enabling students to meet the NANB entry-level competencies and learning outcomes may vary. If feasible, laboratory and simulation experiences can support student learning, including use of high-fidelity simulation, computer-based critical thinking scenarios, and virtual simulation (**laboratory** hours within a baccalaureate program may not exceed 25% of the clinical practice hours). NANB would expect that programs are referring to and following best practices and recent research in simulation learning.
- Education programs will monitor the effectiveness of alternate clinical placements and alternate methods of course delivery.
- Nursing programs document modifications made to programs during this period, including use of alternate clinical placements and alternate methods of course delivery.



- Modification to address these extenuating circumstances are short term for the duration of this pandemic only and not precedent-setting or to become permanent changes to the program.
- In the event that the pandemic continues long term, and students are unable to achieve the NANB entry-level competencies required for registration with NANB, educational institutions may need to delay student progression in, or graduation from, the nursing program.
- The Director/Dean of a program signs a confirmation of program completion indicating that each named student who is graduating has successfully completed all the requirements of their recognized nursing program and that they recommend them for registration as a nurse. This requirement does not change.

Please share this information within your programs and feel free to contact Kate Sheppard at ksheppard@nanb.nb.ca should you have any questions.

Substantial change: Alterations in the approved nursing education program which may jeopardize the ability of the graduates to meet the NANB Entry-Level Competencies and professional practice requirements. Substantial changes would include: changes in the program philosophy, conceptual framework, curriculum content, major alterations in learning activities including clinical placements, and changes in faculty resources.

Laboratory: A simulated setting where students acquire nursing skills and competencies.