



Fact Sheet: Applying the Standards of Practice for Registered Nurses in my Practice

As a registered nurse (RN), you demonstrate your understanding of these standards in large part by being able to interpret and apply them in your practice. This fact sheet is intended to provide guidance on how to apply the standards into your area of practice. Please note that the suggestions below are not all-inclusive and may not fit every context of practice.

All RNs must:

- Act professionally and are accountable for their own practice
- Understand and apply the standards to their practice regardless of their setting, role or area of practice
- Use the standards in conjunction with other resources to guide nursing practice (standards, guidelines, position statement, employer policies)
- Complete NANB's Continuing Competence Program
- Promote a culturally safe workplace

RNs in Direct Care

- Take action when a policy or practice is no longer consistent with best evidence
- Self-assess their knowledge, skills and abilities to provide safe and competent care
- Develop, implement and evaluate the initial nursing plan of care
- Ensure client relationships are outcome-focused and centered on their needs
- Communicate with clients and team members effectively and respectfully
- Ensure that the use of social media doesn't violate client confidentiality
- Understand and respect the scopes of practice and contributions of all team members
- Take action to resolve a professional practice issue
- Recognize how stressors may impact their ability to provide safe and competent care

RNs in Administration:

- Support RN practice in the provision of client care
- Establish and maintain communication to support quality nursing service and research
- Make administrative decisions about nursing service delivery
- Plan, implement and evaluate workplace strategies to address organizational problems and strengths
- Establish and maintain documentation systems to manage clinical and other relevant information
- Create an environment in which collaboration, professional growth and mutual respect can flourish
- Participate in the identification and resolution of professional practice issues, conflicts, and ethical dilemmas

RNs in Education:

- Focus on educating RNs and nursing students
- Develop nursing education courses, in-services and programs
- Integrate evidenced-based theory and best practices into educational activities
- Plan, implement and evaluate education to address learning needs
- Create a professional learning environment in the classroom and clinical setting

RNs in Research

- Conduct or participate in relevant research to support knowledge development for RNs in practice
- Plan, implement and evaluate research in accordance with accepted research methods and procedures
- Analyse and interpret research findings and write appropriate reports and articles for publication
- Share practice implications and policy relevance of the research in a meaningful way with RNs and others
- Promote and contribute to environments that encourage the application of research findings to practice

RNs in Policy

- Focus on integrating research into policy to facilitate evidence-informed practice in the health care system
- Plan, implement and evaluate policy to address systemic health care needs and shape larger public policy outcomes
- Promote and initiate measures that encourage innovation and input into changes within the health care system to optimize client outcomes

If you have any questions on how to apply your standards of practice, please contact a NANB Nurse Consultant at practiceconsultation@nanb.nb.ca.

About NANB

Elements of this document have been adapted from the College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia Standards of Practice for Registered Nurses (2017) and the College of Registered Nurses of Prince Edward Island Standards for Nursing Practice (2018).