

Are You Really a Non-Practising Member?

READ THESE TIPS TO AVOID ENGAGING IN UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE

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DURING ANNUAL RENEWAL, ALL MEMBERS MUST MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THEIR REGISTRATION STATUS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR. FOR MOST MEMBERS THAT MEANS CHOOSING BETWEEN ACTIVE PRACTICE OR NON-PRACTISING STATUS. DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE?

Tip 1: Are You Using Your Nursing Knowledge?

The most important question to ask yourself when choosing between active practice and non-practising status is “Am I using my nursing-specific knowledge, skills, or judgment”? If the answer is yes, then you must register as an active practice nurse or nurse practitioner.

Tip 2: Work Status is Different From Practice Status

Many nurses assume that if they stop working or retire from their long-term job, they should choose non-practising status. This is not the case.

Just because you retire from your job doesn't mean that you stop practising as a nurse. If you are engaged in any activity (paid or volunteer), where you are relying on your nursing knowledge and skills, then you are practising nursing. This includes volunteer, casual, contract, or consulting work.

Tip 3: Going on Leave? Read Tips 1 & 2!

Not everyone who goes on leave stops practising nursing. To decide whether to take a non-practising status while on mater-

nity leave, long-term disability, or other leave, you must ask yourself the question whether you will be using your nursing knowledge while on leave. Teaching a first aid class? Doing a presentation at your child's school? These would be considered active practice.

Tip 4: Practising While Not Registered Can be Costly

Only nurses and nurse practitioners who are registered and in good standing with NANB as active practice members are authorized to practice nursing or as a nurse practitioner in the province of New Brunswick.

Under NANB rules, if you are found to have been practising as a nurse or nurse practitioner while not registered, you may be required to pay a penalty fee before you can complete your renewal. The fee can vary depending on how long you were practising without a registration and whether you have engaged in unauthorized practice before.

In extreme cases, the *Nurses Act* permits NANB to apply for an injunction to prevent a person from continuing to engage in unauthorized practice.