

## FAQ: Taking Orders from Out of Province Prescribers

Are you a registered nurse (RN) who receives orders from a prescriber who is located outside of New Brunswick (NB)? This FAQ is intended to help to clarify questions about who an authorized prescriber is, the professional responsibilities of the individual RN, and where to obtain information about liability protection.

NANB's [Standards for Medication Management](#) state that RNs require medication orders from **authorized prescriber(s)**. NANB does not specify if the authorized prescriber needs to be registered in NB or if RNs can take orders from a physician or a nurse practitioner (NP) from another province. NANB recommends that employers have supporting policies providing direction on management of out of province orders.

Who is an authorized prescriber?

- As outlined in the [Standards for Medication Management](#) (p.7) an authorized prescriber is:
  - A practitioner lawfully entitled to prescribe treatments or medications (New Brunswick College of Pharmacists [NBCP], 2014). According to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, a practitioner means a person who is registered and entitled under the laws of a province to practise in that province the profession of medicine, dentistry, or veterinary medicine, and includes any other person or class of persons prescribed as a practitioner (Government of Canada, 2019b). In addition, a practitioner is defined by the New Classes of Practitioners Regulations as midwives, nurse practitioners and podiatrists (Government of Canada, 2019c).
  - In NB current authorized prescribers include physicians, nurse practitioners, optometrists, dentists, pharmacists, midwives, veterinarians, and physician assistants (College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick [CPSNB], 2013; NBCP, n.d.).

What are the responsibilities of the RN?

- As a self regulated professional, the RN is responsible to:
  - self evaluate that they are safe, competent, and ethical in the care they provide;
  - adhere to their [Standards of Practice](#);
  - adhere to employer policy;
  - advocate for the development of employer policy to support quality practice environments if such policy does not exist.

Will my liability protection cover me as an RN if I implement orders from an out of province prescriber?

- RNs can consult the Canadian Nurses Protective Society for liability protection in this situation: <https://cnps.ca/>.
- For more information regarding your accountabilities when working with out of province prescribers, contact NANB to speak with a Nurse Consultant at 1-800-442-4417/506-458-8731 or by email at [nanb@nanb.nb.ca](mailto:nanb@nanb.nb.ca)



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## References

Nurses Association of New Brunswick. (2020). *Standards for Medication Management*.  
<http://www.nanb.nb.ca/media/resource/NANB-StandardsMedicationManagement-Oct20-E-AmendedFeb2021.pdf>