



Nursing Practice Q&As: *New Supported Decision-Making and Representation Act*

Q: Even though NPs are authorized to complete a capacity assessment in accordance with the new *Supported Decision Making and Representation Act*, and it is considered an entry-level competency, what should I do if I don't feel comfortable or competent to perform a capacity assessment?

A: The NANB considers that a capacity assessment is an entry-level competency (ELC) for NPs. However, NP assessors must ensure they have the required knowledge, skill and competency to complete the capacity assessment as outlined in the [*Supported Decision-Making and Representation Act*](#).

The ELCs for NPs reflect the foundational knowledge, skills, and judgement required for NPs to provide safe, competent, ethical, and compassionate care. As per the principles and assumptions of the [*Entry-Level Competencies for Nurse Practitioners*](#), the entry-level NP works within their scope of practice, and seeks guidance when they encounter situations beyond their individual competence (p. 3). Also, as per Standard 1 of the [*Standards for the Practice of Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioners*](#), indicator 1.3 states that the NP attains, maintains and enhances competence within own area of practice (p. 6).

If NPs do not feel competent to complete a capacity assessment, they are responsible to seek additional knowledge and assistance.

Q: If I have questions related to the application or enactment of the new *Supported Decision Making and Representation Act* or Regulation, or related forms, etc. who should I consult?

A: Questions regarding the *Act* or *Regulation 2023-66* should be directed to the [Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick](#). Questions regarding NP scope and standards of practice should be directed to practiceconsultation@nanb.nb.ca.