

Introduction

Am I Practising Nursing?

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To practise as a nurse in Ontario, you must be currently registered with the College of Nurses of Ontario (the College). This fact sheet outlines factors to consider when determining if you are a practising nurse.

The *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* requires each regulatory college to develop, establish and maintain programs to promote continuing competence among the members of the profession. One way that the College accomplishes this requirement is through its Quality Assurance (QA) Program.

The QA Program includes the following components:

- **Self-Assessment**
All members must participate in this component. Self-Assessment involves evaluating your strengths and areas to improve using available resources, including peer input. It also involves developing and maintaining a learning plan to meet your learning goals.
- **Practice Assessment**
Each year, the College randomly selects a number of RNs and RPNs for Practice Assessment, which is an objective review of a nurse's practice. Nurse Practitioners (NPs) are selected on a cyclical basis. If selected, you must submit your learning plan to the College and complete an objective test.
- **Peer Assessment**
College-assigned Peer Assessors (nurses who have an in-depth understanding of College practice standards and guidelines) review the learning plans and Practice Assessment results of members who have been selected for Practice Assessment. Peer Assessors may make recommendations to the QA Committee. The QA Committee reviews the Peer Assessors' reports or recommendations and may require some members to complete additional remedial learning activities.

Checklist: Are you practising nursing?

Complete this checklist to help determine if you are practising nursing.

Please work through all three steps and check all of the boxes that apply to your current role.

Step 1

Check if either statement applies to your current role:

- I apply nursing knowledge, skill and judgment in Ontario.
- I have a direct or indirect effect on the recipient of a health care service in Ontario.

Total boxes checked _____

Step 2

Examine your current role and check the activities that you engage in. Assessment of:

- client health care needs (e.g., physical, social, emotional, psychological, spiritual)
- health care resources (e.g., staffing, equipment)
- the delivery or the facilitation of safe, ethical and competent nursing care
- health care needs required by individuals, groups, communities or populations
- context of nursing practice (nurse's working environment)
- impact of nursing policy

Planning by:

- analyzing the findings of a health assessment
- determining the appropriate service, treatment, care provider or equipment
- analyzing nursing issues to support client care/nursing practice

Intervening by:

- providing treatment (including complementary therapies)
- health teaching or health promotion (including counselling)

- communicating with clients, families, groups, communities or populations
- providing professional advice
- collaborating with care providers
- directly or indirectly influencing the practice of care providers and/or policy
- managing nursing resources (e.g., staff, facilities, equipment)
- developing learning resources for nurses or other care providers

Evaluating individual or health service outcomes by:

- interpreting client health records
- observing and recording outcomes

Other:

- involved with a health-related product (e.g., medical supply) or process (e.g., quality assurance, workload management)
- providing or developing health education using nursing knowledge, skill and judgment
- performing a health-related intervention
- collecting health data
- access to confidential health information
- interacting with those who expect that you have nursing knowledge or skill

Total boxes checked _____

Step 3

Check if you are practising in one of these settings:

- acute care hospital, addiction and mental health centre/psychiatric hospital, complex continuing care/rehabilitation hospital, other hospital
- long-term care facility, nursing home, home for the aged, retirement home
- Community Care Access Centre, community health centre, community mental health program, hospice, nursing/staffing agency, physician's office, public health unit/department, school, group home, street health agency
- independent practice; health care consultant agency; seasonal camp; occupational health services; industry; insurance, pharmaceutical or medical supply company

- health care education, nursing education program or research organization
- governmental health agency, social services agency or nursing organization (labour, professional support, regulatory)

Total boxes checked _____

Add up all of the boxes you checked in each step:

Total boxes checked in: Step 1 _____

Step 2 _____

Step 3 _____

I have checked one or more boxes in each step:

YES

You are a practising nurse and are required to complete the Self-Assessment component. You are also eligible for Practice Assessment.

NO

You are non-practising. If you are registered with the College, you are required to meet the Self-Assessment obligation by keeping up-to-date with changes and developments in the nursing profession in Ontario; for example, reading the College's magazine *The Standard* or nursing journals. Non-practising nurses will not be selected for Practice Assessment.

For more information

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