



The College presents *Professional Standards: An Overview*.

Professional Standards Revised 2002

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The *Professional Standards* practice standard provides an overall framework for nursing practice, and links with the College's other practice standards, guidelines and competencies.

Professional Standards has seven broad standards: accountability, continuing competence, ethics, knowledge, knowledge application, leadership and relationships. The topic of relationships is broken down into two sections: therapeutic nurse-client relationships and professional relationships.

Each standard has equal importance and they are all interrelated. In fact, an indicator used to illustrate one standard, such as knowledge, may also demonstrate the application of another standard, such as leadership.

Standards
The seven standards are presented in alphabetical order. All standards have equal importance and all are interconnected.

Accountability
Each nurse is accountable to the public and responsible for ensuring that her/his practice and conduct meets legislative requirements and the standards of the profession.

Indicators
A nurse demonstrates the standard by:

- identifying her/himself and explaining her/his role to clients;
- providing, facilitating, advocating and promoting the best possible care for clients;
- advocating for clients, the profession and the health care system;

Nurses are responsible for their actions and the consequences of those actions. Part of this accountability includes conducting themselves in ways that promote respect for the profession. Nurses are not accountable for the decisions or actions of other care providers when there was no way of knowing about those actions.

In addition, a nurse in an administrator role demonstrates the standard by:

- ensuring that mechanisms allow for staffing decisions that are in the best interest of clients and professional practice;
- ensuring appropriate use, education and supervision of staff;
- advocating for a quality practice setting that supports nurses' ability to provide safe,

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THE STANDARD OF CARE.

This slide demonstrates the document layout. Each standard includes a brief statement, a description of the statement and indicators that illustrate how the standard may be demonstrated.

There are indicators that are relevant for all nurses, plus additional indicators for nurses in administrative, educational and research positions. Three of the standards (knowledge, knowledge application and leadership) have additional indicators for RNs.

Professional Standards

- describe professional expectations of nurses;
- provide a framework for practice of nursing; and
- link with the College's standards, guidelines and competencies.



The seven broad standards in the *Professional Standards* document provide the framework for nursing practice and are imbedded in all practice standards, guidelines and RN and RPN competencies. *Professional Standards* is the foundation for all other documents, such as the *Documentation* and *Medication* practice standards.

Professional Standards

Accountability
Continuing Competency
Ethics
Knowledge
Knowledge Application
Leadership
Relationship



To work through another chapter from *Professional Standards*, close the presentation and return to the Learning Centre.