



College of
Registered Nurses
of Manitoba

Self-Regulation

As with many other professions, such as physicians or pharmacists, registered nursing is a self-regulating profession in Manitoba. The purpose of regulation is to ensure that regulated health-care providers practice in a safe, competent, and ethical manner. Regulation encompasses all of the activities directed toward this end.

Self-regulation means that the government has granted a professional group, such as registered nurses, the privilege and responsibility to regulate themselves. In essence, the public contracts with the registered nursing profession to regulate its own registrants, and to protect the public from harm that could be caused by RNs during the course of their practice. Self-regulation is not the norm worldwide and there are other ways that governments regulate health professionals.

Self-regulation acknowledges that a profession itself is in the best position to regulate its registrants because their specialized body of knowledge makes external regulation difficult and impractical. RNs understand registered nursing better than anyone else, so it makes sense for the public to allow professionals to regulate themselves, provided they do so in the public interest. If a conflict arises between the public interest and the interests of the profession, regulatory bodies such as the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba are mandated to support the public interest. Government retains the right to revoke a profession's ability to self-regulate if the public's interest is not being served by the regulator of that profession.

RNs are accountable to Manitobans through adhering to a code of ethics. A code of ethics is a public statement of the values we hold and outlines what we consider to be appropriate and acceptable professional conduct.

RNs must also meet practice expectations and involve the public in self-regulation. Meaningful and effective public participation in our decision-making processes is necessary to ensure that the profession remains accountable to society at large. To this end, public representatives sit on the College's Council and on all legislated committees. Collectively, the participation of individual RNs, government, employers, educators, other professional groups, and the public is essential for responsible self-regulation. The College works collaboratively with other regulatory bodies, health care employers, government, nursing educators, and other stakeholders to help ensure patient safety, a well-qualified workforce of registered nurses, and provide effective oversight of the profession.

The College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba is charged with carrying out the responsibilities of self-regulation. The College governs RNs and RN(NP)s, its registrants, to ensure the public receives safe, competent, ethical care from registered nurses authorized to practice in Manitoba.

The main areas of the College's activities are described below:

Setting Standards for RN Education:

Approve nursing education programs to ensure RNs get the education they need to perform the competencies of an RN. As a regulatory body for the registered nursing profession in Manitoba, the College sets the standards for nursing education programs for the registered nurses, registered nurse(authorized prescribers), and registered nurse (nurse practitioners).

The standards, based on entry level competencies, outline the requirements for nursing education programs including overall program planning, curriculum and program evaluation.

Supporting RNs in Meeting These Standards:

- Set standards for registration
- Establish and maintain a registration process that ensures those who practice as RNs are qualified and competent.
- Set standards for continued competence
- Set expectations and standards for RNs
- Set and maintain practice expectations that RNs must meet every day to ensure safe, competent, and ethical registered nursing care.
- Establish and monitor continuing competency requirements.
- Provide educational opportunities and resources for RNs.
- Provide practice consultation services for RNs and employers of RNs.

Taking Action When These Standards Are Not Met:

- Receive and manage complaints about the nursing practice of RNs, investigate, and order appropriate remedial or disciplinary actions as required.

These are some of the ways the College fulfills its mandate to serve and protect the public interest through the activities of self-regulation.

Resources

ELCs for RNs, RN(AP)S, and RN(NP)S

College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba (2019).
Practice Expectations for RNs.

College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba (2023).
Practice Expectations for RN(NP)s.

Canadian Nurses Association (2017).
Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses.

Published: 05/2002

Revised: 12/2023

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Our publications are available on our website at www.crnmb.ca