



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 is all 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, society contracts with the registered nursing profession to regulate its own registrants protect the public from harm that could be caused by RNs during their practice.

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 simply makes good sense for the public to have professionals regulate themselves as long as they do so in the public interest. When there is a conflict between public interest and professional self-interest, regulatory bodies such as the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba are mandated to support the public interest. If Manitobans became unhappy with the way professions regulate themselves, they could, through the elected members of the legislature, take away the privilege of self-regulation.

RNs are accountable to Manitobans by adhering to a code of ethical conduct (which is a public statement of the values we hold and what we determine to be acceptable

professional conduct), by meeting practice expectations and by involving 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 legislative committees. Truly, 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 registrants to ensure the public receives safe, competent, ethical care from registered nurses authorized to practice.

The main things the College can do is described under these main areas:

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 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:

- Setting 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.

College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba (2025).
Code of Ethical Conduct

Published: 05/2002

Revised: 12/2023

For more information please contact one of our Quality Practice Team Members at

204-774-3477 ext 301

800-665-2027 (Manitoba toll-free)

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