



Self-employed Assessment Checklist: Am I Practising Registered Nursing?

If you are practising nursing as an RN or NP in Alberta, you must be registered and hold an active practice permit with CARNA before you start working (including any orientation), use protected titles, count your practice hours, and have Canadian Nurses Protective Society (CNPS) professional liability protection.

Are you interested in practising as a self-employed RN or NP in Alberta?

Find out more about the risks and resources of self-employment by completing the *Self-Assessment Checklist for Self-employed RN or NP Practice* found [here](#).

Requirements for RN or NP practice

If you don't check all the boxes in this section, please contact CARNA by calling 780.451.0043 or toll free at 1.800.252.9392 ext. 504 and ask to speak to a policy and practice consultant or email practice@nurses.ab.ca.

- Is there a public need for this health-care service?
- Are your clients an individual, families, groups, communities or a population?
- Does the public require services from an RN or NP to directly or indirectly meet their health-care needs? That is, non-regulated members cannot provide this service?
- Is the health-care service within the scope of RN or NP practice as outlined in Schedule 24 of the [Health Professions Act](#).
- Do you provide any RN or NP [restricted activities](#) as part of the health-care service and are you authorized to provide them?
- Does the health-care service require nursing knowledge, skills and judgement of an RN or NP as outlined in the [Registered Nurses Profession Regulation](#) and [scope of practice](#)?
- Can you meet expectations for [fitness to practice](#), responsibility, and accountability as outlined in the [Standards of Practice, Guidelines, Code of Ethics](#) and relevant legislation?
- Does the health-care service require [RN](#) or [NP](#) entry level competencies, advanced competencies or specialized certification in nursing?
- Does the totality of the service being offered consist of unregulated activities (e.g., doula, reiki), within the jurisdiction of another health-care regulator (e.g., naturopath, LPN), or is limited in scope (CPR courses). If you answered "yes" to any of these, or if the practice relates to dual registration, contact a CARNA policy and practice consultant.
- Do you have the knowledge, skills, judgment and experience to provide this health-care service and maintain competence over time?
- Is the focus of the health-care service one or more of the following areas: clinical practice, administration, education, research or consultation services?
- Does the health-care service include one or more of the following roles: clinician, professional, communicator, collaborator, coordinator, leader, advocate, educator or scholar?
- As a clinician, do you provide safe, competent, compassionate, client-centered, and evidence-informed nursing care in response to client/public needs/well-being?

- As a clinician, is your practice based on the ethics of caring and on the goals and circumstances of clients
 - Are the steps of the nursing process used as an integral part of your practice?
 - Does the health-care service require critical thinking, problem solving, professional judgement, accurate interpretation of complex information from various sources?
 - Do you engage in quality improvement activities with the aim to improve practice and client outcomes?
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Specific requirements for NP practice in addition to RN practice

If you are an NP and don't check all the boxes in this section, please contact a CARNA policy and practice consultant to discuss further by calling 780.451.0043 or toll free at 1.800.252.9392, ext. 504 or email practice@nurses.ab.ca:

- conduct advanced health assessments
 - diagnose health/illness conditions
 - order and interpret screening and diagnostic tests
 - prescribe pharmacotherapy
 - perform treatment and advanced interventions
 - treat and manage acute and chronic illness
 - monitor client outcomes
 - provide follow up care
 - consult and refer
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This may not be RN or NP practice

If you check off any of the following boxes, please contact CARNA to discuss further.

- Is the primary focus of the health-care service unregulated activities?
 - Is the primary focus of the health-care service the sale of products?
 - Is the primary focus of the health-care service too restrictive or limited in scope?
 - Is the practice within the jurisdiction of another health care regulator (e.g., naturopath, LPN)?
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Still unsure if you are practising as an RN or NP

If you have any questions, please contact CARNA by calling 780.451.0043 or toll free at 1.800.252.9392:

- For questions related to your self-employed practice, ask to speak to a policy and practice consultant at ext. 504 or email practice@nurses.ab.ca.
- For questions related to your self-employment and practice hours, ask to speak with a registration assistant or email registration@nurses.ab.ca.