

CRNA

College of Registered
Nurses of Alberta

Practice Guidance Framework

Table of Contents

Practice Guidance Purpose	1
Framework Principles	1
Practice Guidance Frequently Asked Questions	2

Practice Guidance Framework

Practice Guidance Purpose

The purpose of practice guidance is to help registrants (RNs and NPs) apply the standards of practice, code of ethics, continuing competence requirements and registration requirements to their nursing practice. The practice guidance framework guides individuals to the tools needed for informed decision-making about providing, receiving and overseeing professional nursing services.

Practice guidance also informs the public, employers and other partners about what they can expect from registrants and is one of the ways that the CRNA facilitates safe nursing practice for the public in Alberta.

Framework Principles

Registrant Accountability

All registrants are accountable and responsible for their nursing practice. It is the responsibility of all registrants to understand the *Practice Standards for Registrants* and apply them to their practice regardless of the practice setting.

Respecting Autonomy in Practice

The College respects nurses' autonomy in their practice and understands the complexity of nursing practice, employer policies and diverse practice settings. We offer guidance and a link to the resources that may be required to practise safely, competently, and ethically.

Spirit of the Legislation

The CRNA is required by the legislation (*Health Professions Act*) to provide direction to the profession by establishing, maintaining, and enforcing standards of practice of the regulated profession. The legislation is not intended to restrict or prohibit the profession, rather empower registrants, public, partners and offer guidance.

Collaborative Partnerships

The CRNA partners with a variety of collaborators to fulfill our mandate of safe practice for the public. The unique roles of the employer, union, association and regulatory college combine to achieve excellence in nursing practice. We may defer to our partners when the scope of a practice guidance question is not within our mandate.

Regulator Transparency

As a Right-touch relational regulator, the CRNA is committed to transparency. We strive to share fulsome information to support registrants, the public and our partners to maximize independence in finding resources relevant to a situation. We are committed to providing relevant and easily accessible self-service information.

Practice Guidance Frequently Asked Questions

What is practice guidance?

- Simply stated, practice guidance is for anyone that has questions about standards of practice, code of ethics, continuing competence and registration.
- Our team of subject matter experts are available to direct you to the resources that apply to your question.
- We may assist you to understand what nurses are accountable for.
- We can offer guidance on the intention of the standards of practice, code of ethics, continuing competence framework and registration requirements and how they might apply to a generic scenario.
- At times, the CRNA may enforce nursing standards of practice, code of ethics, continuing competence and registration requirements through guidance necessary because of audit or a finding of unprofessional conduct.

Practice guidance is not:

- Intended to interpret practice standards related to specific scenarios given the complexity and diversity of nursing practice.
- Intended to answer questions that may best be answered by another area of the College or an alternate organization. If this is the case, we will refer you to the appropriate resource.
- For directive purposes. The College's subject matter expertise is limited to the intention and interpretation of the standards of practice, code of ethics, continuing competence and registration requirements. Registrants and our partners are expected to have subject matter expertise related to specific domains of practice, roles and settings. We can offer generic guidance and support you to make informed decisions.

How is privacy protected?

- The College collects, uses and discloses personal information for the purposes of responding to individuals that seek clarification and guidance on standards and how they apply to nursing practice.
- The information collected during this process may be used by the College for other purposes, but is bound to privacy legislation and our [privacy statement](#).

How do I submit a request for practice guidance?

- You must submit an [online request](#) which includes your contact information (name, email, phone number and registrant ID# if applicable) as well as the details of your question. Our subject matter experts rely on this information to review your question and gather the necessary information for a response.
- Our initial response will be via email, where you will have the opportunity to ask to follow up questions. If you and the RN Consultant determine further conversation is necessary, you will be sent a link to book a half hour meeting that fits within your schedule.
- We will do our best to reach out with an initial response within 3-5 business days, however, we might take longer depending on the complexity of the question.