

# The CRNS Approved Revisions to the Nurse Practitioner Entry-Level Competencies: Key Summary

## Overview of Entry-Level Competencies

Entry-level competencies (ELC) are used by the CRNS and other external partners for several purposes including, but not limited to:

- competency-based assessments;
- curriculum development;
- exam development; and,
- development of practice standards.

## Q – What are the key changes from the 2017 CRNS *Nurse Practitioner (NP) ELCs* to the revised 2023 CRNS *NP ELCs*?

- The revised *NP ELCs* prepare NPs to practice across the lifespan, in all domains, and practice settings.
- The *NP ELCs* encompass and build on the *Registered Nurse ELCs*, focusing on distinct competencies for NPs.
- Introduction of a role-based framework, changing the structure of the document to be more consistent with the current national *Registered Nurse ELCs*.
- Performance indicators were developed to provide additional direction for each competency.
- Competencies and performance indicators were developed to further support the *NP ELCs* in the following areas: virtual care, environmental impact, health promotion and disease prevention, self-employment expectations, mental health, resource stewardship, and safety expectations.
- Promotion of knowledge translation and NP contributions to research initiatives.
- Enhanced leadership skills to support all domains of NP practice.
- Address racism and oppression.
- Enhanced focus on culturally safe care for Indigenous people.

## Q – When will the revised *NP ELCs* come into force and into effect in Saskatchewan?

- On September 25, 2023, the revised *NP ELCs* come into force and effect.
- The process for this approval was as follows:
  - May 4, 2023: The *NP ELCs* were approved by the membership at the CRNS Annual Meeting.
  - February 7, 2023: The *NP ELCs* were approved by the CRNS Council.

- August 11, 2023: The *NP ELCs* were approved by the Saskatchewan Minister of Health. This was the final approval requirement.

**Q - What are the responsibilities of a practicing NP in Saskatchewan with the implementation of revised CRNS *NP ELCs*?**

- On September 25, 2023, the revised *NP ELCs* will be the foundational document outlining the entry-level competencies for NP practice in Saskatchewan.
- Practicing NPs are accountable to practice in accordance with the current CRNS *Registered Nurse Practice Standards, NP Practice Standards, NP ELCs*, and the Canadian Nurses Association's *Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses*.
- Practicing NPs are expected to review the revised *NP ELCs* as part of their self-assessment for the Continuing Competence Program to determine areas for professional development.

**Resources**

- [Canadian Council of Registered Nurse Regulators. The Nurse Practitioner Regulation Framework Implementation Plan Project](#)
  - [Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses](#) (2017)
  - [Continuing Competence Program](#)
  - [Nurse Practitioner Entry-Level Competencies](#) (2017)
  - [Nurse Practitioner Entry-Level Competencies \(2023\)](#)
  - [Registered Nurse Entry-Level Competencies](#) (2019)
  - [Registered Nurse Practice Standards](#) (2019)
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