

# Nurse Practitioner Practice Standards 2024

## Revision: Q&A Page

### 1. **How do the revised NP Practice Standards compare to the previous version?**

The revised NP Practice Standards do not duplicate the RN Practice Standards since the NP is accountable to both the RN Practice Standards and the NP Practice Standards. The revised NP Practice Standards better define the advanced scope of practice of the NP and reflect all domains of practice.

### 2. **Why do the NP Practice Standards not have more specifics about medical assistance in dying (MAiD) or other specific areas of care?**

The NP Practice Standards provide guidance and set expectations for the professional practice of NPs in all practice settings and domains of practice. Regulatory guidance regarding more specific areas of practice is provided through additional regulatory guidelines or documents such as the Documentation Guideline and MAiD Guideline.

### 3. **Some of the enhanced NP Practice Standards seem aspirational. How can an NP meet all NP Practice Standards?**

The NP Practice Standards set the expectations for NPs in all domains and practice settings. Therefore, all NPs are accountable to the NP standards in their practice. This revision of the standards includes enhanced indicators for Professional Relationships, Leadership and Advocacy, which demonstrates the advanced scope and knowledge of NP practice and related expectations.

### 4. **If employer policy does not match the NP Practice Standards, which would take precedence?**

- Employer policy supports nursing practice and defines lines of accountability at the organizational level. The practice and conduct of an NP must always comply with the legislated scope of practice and the Practice Standards.
- Employers cannot expand the scope of practice of an NP. However, they can limit the scope within their place of employment/organization.

**5. How were NPs involved in the revision of the NP Practice Standards?**

- During the consultation period, NPs had the opportunity to provide feedback on the revised NP Practice Standards through survey consultation. All feedback was reviewed and considered.
- An NP was part of the working group.

**6. What processes were completed in revising the NP Practice Standards?**

The Evidence Framework of the Standards of Good Regulation defined by the Professional Standards Authority guided the NP Practice Standards revision process. The revision process also included:

- Development of guiding principles:
  - avoid the duplication of the NP Entry-Level Competencies (ELC);
  - build on the RN Practice Standards;
  - provide broad guidance that articulates professional practice and applies to all settings and domains of NP practice; and,
  - align with the NP ELCs.
- Review of other regulated health care professional practice standards.
- Comprehensive mapping exercises of RN and NP Practice Standards to all Canadian jurisdictions (with the exception of Quebec).
- Environmental scan of related documents and trends.
- External stakeholder consultation.
- Identification and incorporation of content to address gaps, ensure up-to-date NP practice trends, address complexity of client needs and current healthcare state, and align with current legislation.
- Minister of Health approval.

The following broad concepts were also considered:

- Recognition of the diversity of registrants and the diverse client populations served.
- Acknowledgement of diverse practice settings and recognition of all domains of NP practice.
- Increased complexity of client care needs and the current health care environment.
- Evidence of prioritization of care and safety.
- Incorporation of up-to-date practice trends and applicable legislation.

7. **Was the revision of the Nurse Practitioner (NP) Practice Standards part of the national [NP Regulation Framework Implementation Plan Project \(NPR-FIPP\)](#)? What other jurisdictions were involved in the revision of the NP Practice Standards?**
- The revision of the NP Practice Standards was not part of the NPR-FIPP.
  - The College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan (CRNS) and the Nurses Association of New Brunswick (NANB) NP Practice standards were both due for revision, and as such both jurisdictions agreed to collaborate on the revision.
8. **Are there any differences between the CRNS and the NANB NP Practice Standards?**
- The CRNS and NANB NP Practice Standards have slight variations based on differing legislation and regulatory policies. For example, NANB uses the term: *Standards of Practice for NPs* and the CRNS uses the term: *NP Practice Standards*.
  - The NP Practice Standards require Council approval in their respective jurisdictions. CRNS standards are incorporated by reference into the bylaws and were approved by the Saskatchewan Minister of Health.