

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Nurse Practitioner Regulation Framework Implementation Plan Project Final: June 19, 2025 (NPR-FIPP)**



#### **What is NPR-FIPP?**

The Nurse Practitioner Regulation Framework Implementation Plan Project (NPR-FIPP) is a Canadian Council of Registered Nurse Regulators (CCRNRR) initiative supporting nursing regulatory bodies in the implementation of the new regulatory framework for Nurse Practitioners (NP) across Canada (except for Quebec).

In the new framework, NPs will no longer be educated and licensed in categories or streams of practice (i.e., Primary Care, Adult or Pediatrics). Instead, NPs will be educated and licensed to practice across the clients' life span (all client ages) and across all health care practice settings.

In some jurisdictions, neonatal NPs will continue to be educated and licensed as they are now. CRNS will continue to license neonatal NPs through endorsement (initially licensed in another jurisdiction).



#### **How will the national framework ensure consistency across jurisdictions?**

The framework is expected to ensure consistency in the following:

1. Graduate-level education programs aligned with revised NP Entry-Level Competencies (ELC).
2. A single national NP entry-level exam across Canada.
3. One NP registration classification based on the NP ELCs.



#### **What are the benefits to the new national framework?**

The national framework will:

- enable the appropriate levels of regulation in the public interest;
- facilitate collaboration, resource sharing and standardization across jurisdictions;
- reduce barriers and advance labour mobility for NPs across the country; and,
- enhance the public's understanding of the NP role and scope of practice.

Analysis of NP practice across Canada indicates that NPs in all specialties have common competencies and that foundational, entry-level NP practice does not differ greatly, regardless of where the NP practices.

NPs educated and licensed to practice across the client life span and practice settings will have the entry-level and foundational knowledge, skills and judgement to begin providing care. They will continue to require orientation and onboarding in their employers' specific practice setting.



### **When is the new framework expected to be implemented?**

The nursing regulators are planning to implement the new national NP regulatory framework at some point in 2026. The activities, changes required and timing to do this will differ in each province and territory as each regulatory body is working within their legislative and regulatory context.

The CRNS will take a phased in approach to efficiently implement the framework. Bylaw changes will be presented to Council in September as a first step.



### **When will the single entry-level national NP exam be developed?**

Development of the single entry-level national CNPLE is underway, with a planned launch in 2026.



### **How will NP education programs prepare for the transition to the CNPLE?**

Across Canada, many NP education programs have revised their curriculums to align with the current NP ELCs and have implemented the changes. Some implemented the new curriculum in September 2024, while others will start in 2025 or later. Graduates from SK programs will start writing the CNPLE in the fall of 2028. The CNPE will continue to be available until that time.



### **How does this new national framework affect current CRNS NP registrants?**

All NPs should review and reflect on the NP ELCs to identify areas for continuing education. NPs in Saskatchewan will continue to work within their current education, training and personal competence, and maintain their competencies by completing the CRNS Continuing Competence Program as part of their annual registration. Nurse Practitioners will continue to be accountable to practice within their scope of practice and competencies.

As part of transition planning, current CRNS NP registrants, in the Adult, Primary Care and Pediatric specialties will be transitioned into the new framework without having to complete any further education, examination or training. Neonatal NPs will continue to be licensed in their specialty. If a Neonatal NP wishes to practice with a different client focus, they would be required to complete the full education program and write the CNPLE.

Once the transition is complete, the CRNS will no longer regulate the NP's clinical areas or settings. NPs are required to reflect on their practice and identify gaps in their knowledge, skill and judgment to ensure they have the education and training to provide safe, competent care for the setting and client population at hand.



### **How are the Saskatchewan nursing education institutions preparing for this new framework?**

The nursing education institutions in Saskatchewan are currently aligning their curricula with the NP ELCs. The CRNS is working with the nursing education institutions on program approval to ensure graduates from these programs have the entry-level competencies to meet entry-to-practice requirements. It is anticipated that the new curriculum will be implemented in the fall of 2026.

