

# Code of Conduct FAQ

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## What is the Code of Conduct?

The CRNS Code of Conduct (the Code) is a set of six principles that describes the accountabilities RNs have to clients (defined as individuals, substitute decision-makers, families, caregivers, groups, communities and populations who receive nursing care), employers, colleagues and the public. The Code explains what the public can expect from RNs and what they do to maintain professionalism, competence and ethical behavior to deliver safe client care.

## What are some other functions of the Code?

The Code may also be used as:

- a legal reference for reasonable and prudent practice;
- a decision-making guide for practice when addressing professional practice issues;
- a guide to assist RNs and NPs in their self-reflection as part of their continuing competence program (CCP);
- a guide for the public about what they can expect when receiving care from RNs and NPs; and,
- the foundation for the development of resources specific to various contexts of practice (e.g., organizational policies, quality improvement tools, etc.).

## Does the Code apply to all RNs and NPs?

All RNs and NPs (including graduate nurse registrants) are responsible for understanding the Code principles and are accountable to apply them to their nursing practice regardless of their role, title, responsibility, or domain of practice. Additionally, the Code applies to all methods an RN or NP uses to deliver health care services, such as in-person or virtual (e.g., telephone, video conference, etc.).

RNs and NPs are expected to use the Code along with relevant federal and/or provincial legislation, regulatory documents, and employer policies.

**When does the Code come into effect?**

The Code will take effect on February 17, 2026.

**Will the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) Code of Ethics continue to be used as the expectations for RNs and NPs in Saskatchewan?**

No, the CRNS Code of Conduct will include the expectations for ethical practice for Saskatchewan RNs and NPs. The CRNS must, by legislation, adopt a Code of Conduct governing registrant behaviour to protect the public interest by setting expectations for safe, ethical and competent nursing practice within the self-regulated profession.

**Can RNs and NPs continue to use the CNA Code of Ethics?**

Yes, the CNA Code of Ethics can continue to be used as a resource to support ethical nursing practice. However, the Code governs the conduct of all registrants regardless of role, practice setting or employer policy. All CRNS registrants are accountable for applying the Code to their nursing practice.

**What are the key differences between the CNA Code of Ethics and the CRNS Code of Conduct?**

The key differences between the two documents are how the expectations are communicated. Although the words may be different, the practice expectations of RNs and NPs have not changed.

CRNS Code of Conduct	CNA Code of Ethics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Six principles supported by a set of statements or core behaviors.</li> <li>• All RNs and NPs will be expected to comply with all aspects of the Code.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seven Nursing Values and Ethical Responsibilities.</li> <li>• Some content was outside the regulator’s authority to enforce.</li> </ul>

**How do RNs and NPs use the Code in their daily practice?**

The Code outlines the expected behaviors that foster professional accountability, professionalism, inclusive and culturally-safe care, effective team collaboration, and public trust in nursing practice. The Code establishes ethical expectations for RNs and NPs, shaping their decision-making, promoting client safety, guiding their ethical practice and fostering professionalism in all their interactions. It underpins all of RN and NP practice. The Code consists of six principles supported by a set of statements of core behaviors that RNs and NPs are accountable for upholding.

## **What should an RN or NP do if they are unsure about how to comply with a particular expected behavior or principle?**

As a self-regulated professional, if there is a behavior or principle that the RN or NP is unfamiliar with, they are expected to gain the necessary knowledge in that area (e.g., registrants who are unfamiliar with trauma and violence-informed care may read literature, attend a presentation, or complete a course related to this topic). These learning activities can be captured as part of their CCP. Nursing advisors at the CRNS are available to provide further clarity related to principles and behaviors of the Code and to assist RNs and NPs when they may have concerns related to complying with the Code in their practice setting.

## **What other resources are available to RNs and NPs to help support their understanding and application of the Code?**

The CRNS provides RN and NP practice supports on a wide variety of regulatory-focused topics. Please visit the [CRNS website](#), regularly check social channels and your email for important updates and newly published resources.

CRNS Practice and Education Nursing Advisors can be contacted by email at [practiceadvice@crns.ca](mailto:practiceadvice@crns.ca) or by phone at 1.800.667.9945 or 306.359.4214.