



Registered Nurses Association  
of the Northwest Territories  
and Nunavut

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Registration Policy

Policy Description: Definition of Nursing

Policy Number: R8

**Effective Date: March 9, 2015**

**Signature**

**Review Date: March 2018**

**New Policy** \_\_\_\_\_

**Revision: Partial**  **Complete** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applies To: All members of the RNANT/NU.**

**Purpose: To define nursing in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.**

**Policy:**

Nursing encompasses autonomous and collaborative care of individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities, sick or well and in all settings. It includes the promotion of health, the prevention of illness, and the care of ill, disabled and dying people (WHO, 2015).

The practice of registered nursing includes the application of nursing knowledge, skills and judgment to:

- (a) promote, maintain and restore health;
- (b) prevent and alleviate illness, injury and disability;
- (c) assist in prenatal care, childbirth, and postnatal care;
- (d) care for the terminally ill and the dying;
- (e) coordination of health care services;
- (f) administration, supervision, education, consultation, teaching, policy development and research with respect to any of the matters referred to in paragraphs (a) to (e); and
- (g) dispense, compound and package drugs where bylaws so permit (NPA, 2004).

The designation of registered nurse (R.N.) is a protected title:

No person shall

- (a) hold himself or herself out to the public by any title, designation or description as a registered nurse or under that title, designation or description render or offer to render services of any kind to a person for a fee or other remuneration, unless he or she is a registered nurse;
- (b) use the title "Registered Nurse" or the designation "Reg.N." or "R.N.", unless he or she is a registered nurse.

A person shall not perform any duties until they are actively registered with RNANT/NU. This includes any orientation or completion of documents.

**Conditions and Exceptions:**

None



### **Authority and Accountability:**

This policy is issued under the authority of the RNANT/NU Board of Directors and as governed by the Nursing Profession Act, Section 2 (1), 11 (1) (a) (b) (ze), Section 29 (1), (5) (a) (b), Section 70(1) (a), (b); and RNANT/NU Bylaw 4 (1) (a). The Board of Directors further has the authority to revise this Policy as required.

The Director of Regulatory Services and Policy and the Registration Committee are accountable to the Board of Directors, and ultimately to the membership, for the implementation of this policy and may delegate any related administrative tasks.

### **History**

This policy replaces the former policy:

R8: Definition of Nursing, issued in April 2002.

### **References:**

World Health Organization (WHO). (2015). *Definition of nursing*. Retrieved from:  
[www.who.int/topics/nursing/en/](http://www.who.int/topics/nursing/en/)

Government of the Northwest Territories. (2004). *Nursing Profession Act*. Retrieved from:  
<http://www.justice.gov.nt.ca/Legislation/SearchLeg&Reg.shtml>