



REGISTERED NURSES ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND NUNAVUT

FAQ's

What constitutes NP hours?

What are the hour requirements for an NP registration?

RNANT/NU bylaw 4(1) provides that competence to practice as a NP is demonstrated by satisfactory evidence that the NP has been engaged in the practice of nursing as a NP for at least 1125 hours in the past four years.

What does the Act say?

The definition of Nurse Practitioner (NP) practice from the Act is central to considering the question of “what constitutes NP hours or answering the questions “Am I practicing as an NP?”

The Act addresses what nursing practice is

PART 2

PRACTICE OF NURSING

Registered Nurses

Practice of registered nurse

2. (1) A registered nurse is entitled to apply nursing knowledge, skills and judgment

(a) to promote, maintain and restore health;

(b) to prevent and alleviate illness, injury and disability;

(c) to assist in prenatal care, childbirth, and postnatal care;

(d) to care for the terminally ill and the dying;

(e) in the coordination of health care services;

(f) in 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) to dispense, compound and package drugs where bylaws so permit

Then addresses what NP practice is:

Nurse Practitioners

Practice of nurse practitioner

4. (1) In addition to the functions set out in subsection 2(1), a nurse practitioner is entitled to apply advanced nursing knowledge, skills and judgment

- (a) to make a diagnosis identifying a disease, disorder or condition;
- (b) to communicate a diagnosis to a patient; (c) to order and interpret screening and diagnostic tests authorized in guidelines approved by the Minister;
- (d) to select, recommend, supply, prescribe and monitor the effectiveness of drugs authorized in guidelines approved by the Minister; and
- (e) to perform other procedures that are authorized in guidelines approved by the Minister.

How is the Act interpreted?

Hours spent in administration, supervision, education, consultation, teaching, policy development and research with respect to section 4 (1) (a)- (e) of the Act would count as NP hours if the work were something that only a NP is qualified to do. As examples:

- hours spent in the administration and supervision of a NP clinic,
- teaching in an NP program,
- developing policy or procedures directly affecting the work of an NP,
- research in the effectiveness of a NP clinic

What else should I consider when assessing work hours?

Consider what is written in the Act and reflect on the following questions. ¹

Does my work have a direct or indirect effect on the health care system?

Does my role impact the health care environment, policy, resources, or knowledge – all the factors that end up contributing to a client’s care.

Am I using my NP knowledge, skill, and judgment in my role? For example, an NP working in a risk management role in a health-related organization will have an indirect impact on client care through their role informing decisions related to health care.

Am I conveying to the public that I am a NP? Do I use the title NP as a way of demonstrating your credibility and knowledge to the workplace and public?

Based on my role, title and how I present myself, would the workplace and public expect me to use my NP knowledge or skill in my interactions with them? For example, an NP working for an insurance company completing online review of workers compensation claims. If the clients

¹ Adapted from CNO “FAQ’s Non-Practicing Class <https://www.cno.org/en/maintain-your-membership1/nonpractising-class-faq/>

know a NP is assisting them, will they expect the NP to have and use relevant NP knowledge, skill, and judgment.

What are your reasons for using the protected title of NP? Is it because you wish people to know that you have that credibility, expertise, knowledge, skill, or ability?

Who are you telling that you are a NP? And what do you expect them to do with this information?

If you have questions about NP hours and assessment, please contact us info@rnantnu.ca