

Am I Practising Nursing?

Introduction

To practise as a nurse in Ontario, you must be registered with the College of Nurses of Ontario (the College). Nursing practice can take place in a variety of roles and settings. This fact sheet outlines the factors to consider when determining if you are practising nursing.

It's important to note that *practising nursing* is not the same as *being employed as a nurse*. Even if you volunteer as a nurse, you are performing nursing services and considered to be a practising nurse.

Are you practising nursing?

Complete this checklist to determine if you are practising nursing. Check all of the boxes that apply to your current role.

Step 1

- ☐ I apply nursing knowledge, skill and judgment in Ontario.
- ☐ I apply relevant nursing practice standards and guidelines.
- ☐ I have a direct or indirect effect on the recipient of a health care service in Ontario.

Total boxes checked ____

Step 2

Examine your current role and check the activities that you engage in.

Assessment of:

- ☐ client health care needs (e.g., physical, social, emotional, psychological, spiritual)
- ☐ health care resources (e.g., staffing, equipment)
- ☐ the delivery or the facilitation of safe and competent nursing care
- ☐ health care needs required by individuals, groups, communities or populations
- ☐ context of nursing practice (nurse's working environment)
- ☐ impact of nursing policy

Planning by:

- ☐ analyzing the findings of a health assessment
- ☐ determining the appropriate service, treatment, care provider or equipment
- ☐ analyzing nursing issues to support client care/ nursing practice

Intervening by:

- ☐ providing treatment (including complementary therapies)
- ☐ health teaching or health promotion (including counselling)
- ☐ communicating with clients, families, groups, communities or populations
- ☐ providing professional advice
- ☐ collaborating with care providers
- ☐ directly or indirectly influencing the practice of care providers and/or policy
- ☐ managing nursing resources (e.g. staff, facilities, equipment)
- ☐ developing learning resources for nurses or other care providers

Evaluating individual or health service outcomes by:

- ☐ interpreting client health records
- ☐ observing and recording outcomes

Other:

- ☐ involved with a health-related product (e.g., medical supply) or process (e.g., quality assurance, workload management)
- ☐ providing or developing health education using nursing knowledge, skill and judgment
- ☐ performing a health-related intervention
- ☐ collecting health data
- ☐ access to confidential health information
- ☐ interacting with those who expect that you have nursing knowledge or skill

Total boxes checked ____

Step 3

Check if you are practising in one of these settings:

- ☐ acute care hospital, addiction and mental health centre/psychiatric hospital, complex continuing care/rehabilitation hospital, other hospital
- ☐ long-term care facility, nursing home, home for the aged, retirement home
- ☐ Community Care Access Centre, community health centre, community mental health program, hospice, nursing/staffing agency, physician's office, public health unit/department, school, group home, street health agency
- ☐ independent practice, health care consultant agency, seasonal camp, occupational health services, industry; insurance, pharmaceutical or medical supply company
- ☐ health care education, nursing education program or research organization
- ☐ governmental health agency, correctional facility, social services agency or nursing organization (labour, professional support, regulatory)

Total boxes checked ____

Add up all the boxes you checked in each step:

Total boxes checked in:

Step 1 ____

Step 2 ____

Step 3 ____

I have checked all three boxes in Step 1, and have checked one or more boxes in each of Steps 2 and 3:

☐ YES

You are a practising nurse.

☐ NO

You are non-practising.

For more information

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