



BCCNM LEARNING MODULE — RESOURCES

# Privacy and Confidentiality

In Nursing Practice



900 – 200 Granville St  
Vancouver, BC V6C 1S4  
Canada

T: 604.742.6200  
Toll-free: 1.866.880.7101  
[bccnm.ca](http://bccnm.ca)

# Privacy and Confidentiality in Nursing Practice Web Module Learning Resources

**BCCNM has a web page that includes local library sources (Health Authorities and Post-secondary Institution Libraries — scroll to the bottom of the web page).**

RN: [https://www.bccnm.ca/RN/OA/annual/pd\\_plan/Pages/Resources.aspx](https://www.bccnm.ca/RN/OA/annual/pd_plan/Pages/Resources.aspx)

NP: [https://www.bccnm.ca/NP/OA/annual/pd\\_plan/Pages/Resources.aspx](https://www.bccnm.ca/NP/OA/annual/pd_plan/Pages/Resources.aspx)

## PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY IN NURSING PRACTICE MODULE WORKBOOK

<https://www.bccnm.ca/Documents/learning/modules/PCworkbook.pdf>

## DIRECTIVES FOR PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

BCCNM provides many resources that encompass professional directives regarding privacy and Confidentiality

### BCCNM PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR PRACTICE

RN: <https://www.bccnm.ca/RN/ProfessionalStandards/Pages/Default.aspx>

NP: <https://www.bccnm.ca/NP/ProfessionalStandards/Pages/Default.aspx>

### PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY PRACTICE STANDARD

RN: <https://www.bccnm.ca/RN/PracticeStandards/pages/privacy.aspx>

NP: <https://www.bccnm.ca/NP/PracticeStandards/pages/privacy.aspx>

LPN: <https://www.bccnm.ca/LPN/PracticeStandards/pages/privacy.aspx>

RPN: <https://www.bccnm.ca/RPN/PracticeStandards/pages/privacy.aspx>

### PRACTICE STANDARD FOR DOCUMENTATION

RN: <https://www.bccnm.ca/RN/PracticeStandards/Pages/documentation.aspx>

NP: <https://www.bccnm.ca/NP/PracticeStandards/Pages/documentation.aspx>

LPN: <https://www.bccnm.ca/LPN/PracticeStandards/Pages/documentation.aspx>

RPN: <https://www.bccnm.ca/RPN/PracticeStandards/Pages/documentation.aspx>

### BCCNM PRACTICE SUPPORT GUIDELINES FOR NURSING DOCUMENTATION

[https://www.bccnm.ca/Documents/learning/modules/Documentation\\_Learning\\_Resources.pdf](https://www.bccnm.ca/Documents/learning/modules/Documentation_Learning_Resources.pdf)

**NURSE CLIENT RELATIONSHIP PRACTICE STANDARD**

RN: <https://www.bccnm.ca/RN/PracticeStandards/Pages/boundaries.aspx>

NP: <https://www.bccnm.ca/NP/PracticeStandards/Pages/boundaries.aspx>

LPN: <https://www.bccnm.ca/LPN/PracticeStandards/Pages/boundaries.aspx>

RPN: <https://www.bccnm.ca/RPN/PracticeStandards/Pages/boundaries.aspx>

**BCCNM SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR REGISTERED NURSES**

<https://www.bccnm.ca/RN/ScopePractice/Pages/Default.aspx>

**LEGISLATION RELATIVE TO NURSING PRACTICE BOOKLET**

<https://www.bccnm.ca/Documents/regulation/LegislationRelevantNursesPractice.pdf>

**CNA CODE OF ETHICS**

<https://www.cna-aicc.ca/en/nursing-practice/nursing-ethics>

**DUTY TO REPORT PRACTICE STANDARD**

RN: <http://www.bccnm.ca/RN/PracticeStandards/Pages/dutyto report.aspx>

NP: <http://www.bccnm.ca/NP/PracticeStandards/Pages/dutyto report.aspx>

**BCCNM WEBPAGE ON REGULATIONS**

<https://www.bccnm.ca/Public/regulation/Pages/Default.aspx>

**BCCNM PRACTICE SUPPORT WEB PAGE**

RN: <http://www.bccnm.ca/RN/learning/Pages/Default.aspx>

NP: <http://www.bccnm.ca/NP/learning/Pages/Default.aspx>

**ONLINE LEARNING MODULE: DOCUMENTATION IN NURSING PRACTICE**

This BCCNM on-line learning module provides information related to the processes of documentation in nursing practice, including privacy and confidentiality considerations related to storage of documentation and maintaining security of e-documentation.

[https://www.bccnm.ca/Lists/Learning\\_modules/Documentation/player.html](https://www.bccnm.ca/Lists/Learning_modules/Documentation/player.html)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### WEB SITE: OFFICE OF THE INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER FOR BC.

This site includes additional detailed information related to privacy and confidentiality legislation in BC.

<http://www.oipc.bc.ca>

### WEB SITE: BC LAWS

This website provides free public access to the current laws of British Columbia. It is published by the Queen's Printer for BC in partnership with the Ministry of Attorney General and the Law Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

[www.bclaws.ca/default.html](http://www.bclaws.ca/default.html)

### WEB SITE: JUSTICE LAWS

This federal government website is an online source of the consolidated Acts and regulations of Canada.

<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/index.html>

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: CLIENT CONFIDENTIALITY, ACCESS TO AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

BCCNM offers several documents that provide additional information related to client confidentiality, accessing information and disclosure of information. These include:

### BCCNM PRACTICE STANDARD FOR PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

RN: <https://www.bccnm.ca/RN/PracticeStandards/pages/privacy.aspx>

NP: <https://www.bccnm.ca/NP/PracticeStandards/pages/privacy.aspx>

LPN: <https://www.bccnm.ca/LPN/PracticeStandards/pages/privacy.aspx>

RPN: <https://www.bccnm.ca/RPN/PracticeStandards/pages/privacy.aspx>

### BCCNM PRACTICE STANDARD: DUTY TO REPORT

RN: <http://www.bccnm.ca/RN/PracticeStandards/Pages/dutyto report.aspx>

NP: <http://www.bccnm.ca/NP/PracticeStandards/Pages/dutyto report.aspx>

### BCCNM PRACTICE STANDARD FOR CONSENT

RN: <http://www.bccnm.ca/RN/PracticeStandards/Pages/consent.aspx>

NP: <http://www.bccnm.ca/NP/PracticeStandards/Pages/consent.aspx>

### BCCNM PRACTICE STANDARD: NURSE-CLIENT RELATIONSHIPS

RN: <https://www.bccnm.ca/RN/PracticeStandards/Pages/boundaries.aspx>

NP: <https://www.bccnm.ca/NP/PracticeStandards/Pages/boundaries.aspx>

LPN: <https://www.bccnm.ca/LPN/PracticeStandards/Pages/boundaries.aspx>

RPN: <https://www.bccnm.ca/RPN/PracticeStandards/Pages/boundaries.aspx>

### BCCNM NURSE-CLIENT RELATIONSHIPS RESOURCES

RN: <https://www.bccnm.ca/RN/learning/boundaries/Pages/Default.aspx>

NP: <https://www.bccnm.ca/NP/learning/boundaries/Pages/Default.aspx>

LPN: <https://www.bccnm.ca/LPN/learning/boundaries/Pages/Default.aspx>

RPN: <https://www.bccnm.ca/RPN/learning/boundaries/Pages/Default.aspx>

### BCCNM LEGISLATION RELEVANT TO NURSES' PRACTICE

<https://www.bccnm.ca/Documents/regulation/LegislationRelevantNursesPractice.pdf>

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

#### Clients Accessing Personal Health Information

This article presents a US perspective: It describes one hospital group's experience of supporting client's access to their health information through use of 'open medical records': The authors describe the process used to support this goal, and outcomes related to client utilization of the opportunity and client satisfaction. The discussion is thought-provoking and offers insight into what is possible in terms of supporting client access to their personal health information.

**FRAMPTON, S.B., HOROWITZ, S., STUMPO, B.J., (2009). *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING*, 109 (8), 59-63.**

<http://journals.lww.com/ajnonline/pages/collectiondetails.aspx?TopicalCollectionId=6>

#### Disclosure of Information Without Client Consent

This information sheet published by the Canadian Nurses Protective Society offers a concise discussion of considerations related to disclosing information without client consent, and highlights situations in which this is acceptable practice.

Canadian Nurses Protective Society (2008). InfoLaw: a legal information sheet for nurses: Confidentiality of health information. Vol 1, (2).

[http://www.cnps.ca/upload-files/pdf\\_english/confidentiality.pdf](http://www.cnps.ca/upload-files/pdf_english/confidentiality.pdf)

## Social Media

This short information sheet begins by outlining Registered Nurses' professional obligations related to client confidentiality, then offers a succinct discussion of risks related to social media use in professional nursing practice and, finally, suggests strategies for risk management.

Canadian Nurses Protective Society, (2011). InfoLaw: A legal information sheet for Nurses on social media, 19(3).

[http://www.cnps.ca/upload-files/pdf\\_english/social\\_media.pdf](http://www.cnps.ca/upload-files/pdf_english/social_media.pdf)

Using an example from his personal experience, this Nurse Practitioner offers a clear discussion about the concerns of 'friending' patients on Facebook, or through other social media sources. This cautionary discussion is balanced by highlighting some of the advantages that social media can offer in support of health promotion.

Tariman, J.D. (2010). Where to draw the line: professional boundaries in social networking. ONS Connect, 25 (2), 10-3.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2891246/>

### DATABASE: CINAHL PLUS WITH FULL TEXT

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing in the United States recently published a "White Paper" related to nurses' use of social media and clients' privacy and confidentiality. Although the specific references are US based (e.g. relevant legislation) the principles of the discussion are directly applicable to the Canadian context. This document provides a clear and very readable discussion of privacy and confidentiality concerns and considerations related to nurses' use of social media and is highly recommended. It also includes some excellent case examples that connect the discussion clearly to practice.

NCSBN. (2011). White Paper: A Nurse's Guide to the Use of Social Media. National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Chicago, US.

[http://www.ncsbn.org/Social\\_Media.pdf](http://www.ncsbn.org/Social_Media.pdf)

## COMPLEX SITUATIONS: ETHICAL DECISION-MAKING IN NURSING PRACTICE

There are a wide variety of resources that support nurses' ethical decision-making. These include:

### CNA CODE OF ETHICS FOR REGISTERED NURSES.

<https://www.cna-aicc.ca/en/on-the-issues/best-nursing/nursing-ethics>

Your Health Care Agency will provide resources to support ethical nursing practice e.g. Ethics Committee, Ethics Advisors, printed and electronic resources, policies and procedures.

### W MAURICE YOUNG CENTRE FOR APPLIED ETHICS AT UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

This website is the home to information related to interdisciplinary health ethics. The documents section of this website includes a framework developed by Dr Micheal McDonald that is intended to guide ethical decision-making in health care.

<http://www.ethics.ubc.ca/>