

The Nurses and Midwives Regulation (NMR) and the Regulated Health Practitioners Regulation (RHPR): How it works

To apply the Nurses and Midwives Regulation to scope of practice questions, consider the following steps along with the controls on practice.

Applying HPOA regulations to scope of practice questions

STEP 1

What is the question about?

Start with analyzing the question — what is the question really asking?

Example: The question, "Can an LPN change a chest tube dressing," relates to a dressing that sits on the epidermis.

STEP 2

Where to look?

In the NMR, find the part applicable to the appropriate class of licensees.

Example: For LPN question, go to Part 3 of the NMR.

STEP 3

Is the activity restricted?

Check Divisions 2 and/or 3 in the NMR and the RHPR restricted activities table. If the activity is listed in the regulation(s), check the subsections which may have a limit or condition, then proceed to Step 4. If the activity is not listed in any regulation, but falls within the scope, it is a non-restricted activity, proceed to Step 6.

Example: Check the NMR, Part 3, Division 2, List of limited restricted activities. There is no item that would directly apply to the question. Subsections 29 (b) and 31 only apply to the procedures on tissue below the dermis. Since the activity is not listed in the NMR and it falls under LPNs' scope (see the NMR, Part 3, Division 1, subsection 27 Scope of practice for practical nursing), it is considered a non-restricted activity.

STEP 4

Does the regulation require an order and/or certification for this activity?

Refer to Division 2 or 3 to confirm whether the restricted activity requires the order and/or certification. Note, an order and/or certification may also be required by BCCNM or organization policy.

Example: Not applicable to non-restricted activity.

STEP 8

Does the nurse or midwife have individual competence to perform the activity?

Nurses and midwives must have the skills, knowledge, ability, and judgment to safely perform the activity. This is part of the licensee's ethical and professional responsibilities, as outlined in the BCCNM standards of practice.

Example: LPN must be competent in chest tube dressing changes to safely perform the activity.

STEP 7

What are organizational, employer or place of practice policies?

Check your employer's policies, processes and restrictions to make sure they support the safe performance of the activity. Sometimes the employer may not allow the activity at all even though it is within the regulations.

Example: The employer may place additional limits and conditions on how the activity is performed by LPNs within their role in the organization.

STEP 6

What are BCCNM limits and conditions?

Identify all applicable BCCNM standards, limits, and conditions for the activity in question.

Example: In the Licensed Practical Nurses: Acting within Autonomous Scope of Practice, limits and conditions, there is an activity #3: Change chest tube dressing with respective limits and conditions.

If these limits and conditions cannot be met, then the LPN would need a client-specific order to perform this activity.

STEP 5

Are there other regulations to consider?

Think about the context of the activity, including references to other regulations, such as the Drug Schedules Regulation or regulations for other practitioners involved in the activity. Consider checking the RHPR for exemptions (Division 3).

Example: Not applicable to non-restricted activity.