On August 23, 2024, the "Applying the principles" section was removed from this document. The practice standard is unchanged. For guidance and FAQs on applying the principles, see the learning resources on BCCNM's website.

PRACTICE STANDARD FOR BCCNM NURSES

Regulatory Supervision of Students

Practice Standards set out requirements related to specific aspects of nurses' practice. They link with other standards, policies and bylaws of the BC College of Nurses and Midwives, and all legislation relevant to nursing practice.

Nurses[1] have a professional responsibility to provide regulatory supervision of student activities that affect clients (e.g., assessments, treatments, interventions). The nurse may be in any number of roles, including an instructor supervising a clinical rotation or a nurse supervising a student's preceptorship, and has a responsibility when they agree to supervise students.

Students[2] and employed student registrants[3] do not have the authority to perform any activities that affect a client unless authorized by a nurse who is a registrant of BCCNM. Regulatory supervision is the process nurses follow in authorizing students to perform activities as part of:

- a BCCNM-recognized entry-level or re-entry level nursing education program[4] (or equivalent) or course,

- work as an employed student nurse or employed student psychiatric nurse, when authorized by a practising NP, RN, or RPN[5].

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1 "Nurse" refers to the following BCCNM nursing registrants: licensed graduate nurses, licensed practical nurses, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, registered psychiatric nurses, except where otherwise specified.

2 In this practice standard, "student" refers to any student in a BCCNM-recognized entry-level or re-entry nursing, practical nursing, or psychiatric nursing education program. It also includes a student from the same type of program from an institution elsewhere in Canada, approved by that province or territory's regulator.

3 "Employed student registrant" refers to students who are registered with BCCNM and practising as employed student nurses or employed student psychiatric nurses.

4 "Nursing education program" refers to a BCCNM-recognized entry level or re-entry nursing, practical nursing, or psychiatric nursing education program, including programs from other provinces or territories in Canada, approved by that province or territory's regulator.

5 LPNs are not authorized to supervise employed student registrants per BCCNM Bylaws.

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This practice standard is to be used when nurses provide regulatory supervision to students or employed student registrants and make decisions about what care students and employed student registrants may provide to clients.

Education programs and employers provide the organizational supports and resources necessary for nurses to safely provide regulatory supervision of students and to meet the BCCNM Standards of Practice. Employers provide supports and resources necessary for nurses to safely provide regulatory supervision of employed student registrants.

Principles

1. Nurses are accountable and responsible for decisions associated with the regulatory supervision process, including decisions made by the nursing student.

2. Nurses providing regulatory supervision of students or employed student registrants may only authorize activities:

   a. for which the student has gained competence through their BCCNM-recognized education program (or equivalent),

   b. within the supervising nurse's scope of practice, and

   c. within the supervising nurse's individual competence.

3. In addition to this standard, nurse practitioners supervising nurse practitioner students follow the standard Regulatory Supervision of Nurse Practitioner Student Restricted Activities in the Scope of Practice for Nurse Practitioners: Standards, Limits, and Conditions.

4. Nurses obtain consent from the client, when possible, about the student's involvement in their care before authorizing activities.

5. Nurses set the conditions for the student to perform activities, considering:

   a. the client's health condition, preferences and needs,

   b. the nature and complexity of activities to be performed,

   c. the practice setting and work environment,

   d. the level of supervision the student requires,

   e. involvement of others in overseeing the activities, and

   f. how the nurse will know what activities have been done and the effects on the client.

6. Nurses anticipate and mitigate potential and actual risks to the client arising from nursing student activities.

7. Nurses collaborate to establish roles and accountabilities for the components of the regulatory supervision process when more than one nurse is involved.

8. Nurses review and revise supervision needs on an ongoing basis.

Other information

BCCNM's Standards of Practice (Professional Standards, Practice Standards, and Scope of Practice Standards) set out requirements for practice that registrants must meet. They are available from the Nursing Standards section of the BCCNM website www.bccnm.ca.

Standards for Licensed Practical Nurses:

- Professional Standards for Licensed Practical Nurses

- Scope of Practice for Licensed Practical Nurses: Standards, Limits and Conditions

Standards for Nurse Practitioners and Registered Nurses:

- Professional Standards for Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners

- Scope of Practice for Nurse Practitioners: Standards, Limits and Conditions

- Scope of Practice for Registered Nurses: Standards, Limits and Conditions

Standards for Registered Psychiatric Nurses:

- Professional Standards for Registered Psychiatric Nurses

- Code of Ethics for Registered Psychiatric Nurses

- Scope of Practice for Registered Psychiatric Nurses: Standards, Limits and Conditions

For more information on this or any other practice issue, contact BCCNM's Standards Support by completing an intake form.

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