

PRACTICE STANDARD

Nurses: Use of Title

Introduction

The *Nurses and Midwives Regulation* and the BCCNM general bylaws establish the titles that may only be used by BCCNM licensees. These titles carry particular meaning and convey a level of knowledge and skill in managing the care of **clients**.

This practice standard sets expectations that **nurses** must meet when using the titles for which they hold a licence with BCCNM.

Standards

1. Nurses use their title(s) in ways that comply with:
 - a. *The Health Professions and Occupations Act*;
 - b. *The Nurses and Midwives Regulation* and the *Regulated Health Practitioners Regulation*;
 - c. [BCCNM general bylaws](#); and
 - d. BCCNM ethics standards and practice standards.
2. When nurses document care or services provided to a client, they identify their:
 - a. Name;
 - b. Title that most specifically reflects their class of licensure; and
 - c. Certification if they are on BCCNM's certified practice register.
3. Nurses identify themselves by title to clients, members of the health-care team, and others.
4. Nurses use only the title(s) for which they are licensed, regardless of their role or job description in the work setting.
5. Nurses who hold multiple classes of licensure with BCCNM use the title associated with their job description and the role in which they are practising.
6. Licensed practical nurses who hold a practising or multijurisdictional licence with BCCNM use the titles licensed practical nurse, practical nurse, LPN, or nurse.
7. Nurse practitioners who hold a practising license with BCCNM use the titles nurse practitioner, NP, registered nurse practitioner, RN-NP, registered nurse, RN, or nurse.

8. Registered nurses who hold a practising or multijurisdictional licence with BCCNM use the titles registered nurse, RN, or nurse.
9. Registered nurses who hold current BCCNM certification and working in a certified practice role may use the titles certified registered nurse, registered nurse (certified), or RN(C). If a certified registered nurse wishes to note their specific certification program, they may append the following terms:
 - a. First call certified
 - b. Remote practice certified
 - c. Reproductive health (STI and/or CM) certified. These RNs may have sexually transmitted infection (STI) and/or contraceptive management (CM) sub-certification.
 - d. Opioid use disorder certified
10. Registered psychiatric nurses who hold current BCCNM certification and working in a certified practice role may use the titles certified registered psychiatric nurse, registered psychiatric nurse (certified), or RPN(C). If a certified registered psychiatric nurse wishes to note their specific certification program, they may append the following term:
 - a. Opioid use disorder certified
11. Licensed graduate nurses who hold a practising licence with BCCNM use the titles licensed graduate nurse, LGN, or nurse.
12. Registered psychiatric nurses who hold a practising or multijurisdictional licence with BCCNM use the titles registered psychiatric nurse, psychiatric nurse, RPN, or nurse.
13. Nurses who hold a provisional licence with BCCNM use (P) or (provisional) after their title, or "provisional" before their title.
14. Nurses who hold a temporary (emergency) licence with BCCNM use (T) after their title, or "temporary" before their title.
15. When providing regulatory supervision to students, nurses ensure that:
 - a. Students who are enrolled in an entry-level practical nursing education program identify themselves as a practical nursing student, student practical nurse, or SPN when documenting or providing care or services to a client.
 - b. Students who are enrolled in a nurse practitioner education program identify themselves as a student nurse practitioner, student nurse, or SNP when documenting or providing care or services to a client as a student nurse practitioner. Student nurse practitioners identify themselves as a registered nurse when they are working in a registered nurse role and are licensed with BCCNM.
 - c. Students who are enrolled in an entry-level nursing education program identify themselves as a student nurse, nursing student, or SN when documenting or providing care or services to a client.

- d. Students who are enrolled in an entry-level psychiatric nursing education program identify themselves as a psychiatric nursing student, student psychiatric nurse, or SPsycN when documenting or providing care or services to a client.
16. Employed student nurse licensees identify themselves as an employed student nurse or ESN only when they are working in an employed student role, and use student nurse, nursing student, or SN when documenting or providing care or services to a client in the context of their education program.
17. Employed student psychiatric nurse licensees identify themselves as an employed student psychiatric nurse or ESPN only when they are working in an employed student role, and use psychiatric nursing student, student psychiatric nurse, or SPsycN when documenting or providing care or services to a client in the context of their education program.
18. Nurses who use their title in an advertisement or marketing comply with the BCCNM general bylaws.

Glossary

Clients: person(s) receiving health services.

Nurses: refers to licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, registered psychiatric nurses, and nurse practitioners licensed with BCCNM.

Revision history

Version #	Approved by board	Bylaw in-force	Description
1.0	March 1, 2026	April 1, 2026	Initial publication

Effective April 1, 2026, this practice standard, and any amendments to it, is made a bylaw under the authority of the *Health Professions and Occupations Act, B.C.*

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