

RPN Registration Requirement – Quality Assurance Part B (RPN Practice Hours)

Summary of Requirement

Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPNs) must demonstrate that in the five years immediately before applying for practising RPN registration or renewing their practising RPN registration they have [practised 1,400 hours](#) as an RPN or completed an approved psychiatric nursing education program. Practising RPNs must also meet the requirements of the document *Quality Assurance: Part A (RPN Quality Assurance Program)*.

Who does this Requirement apply to?

This requirement applies to anyone applying for RPN registration with BCCNP, and to all registrants who are renewing their practising RPN registration.

How do I meet the Practice Hours Requirement?

Demonstrating Currency

1. To maintain currency in practice as an RPN, you must have done one of the following:
 - a. Graduated from a recognized entry or re-entry level psychiatric nursing education program in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan or Manitoba, or from a psychiatric nursing program approved by the BCCNP, in the preceding five years.
 - b. Demonstrated to the satisfaction of the BCCNP Registration Committee that you have completed 1,400 hours of practice as an RPN within the preceding five years.
2. If you are not able to demonstrate that you meet the requirements set out at 1.a. or 1.b., above, you may have the opportunity to demonstrate to the Registration Committee, via a competency assessment, that you have the competencies required for practising RPN registration. This may apply in the following circumstances:
 - a. If you are an RPN **applicant** who has completed a psychiatric nursing education program, but you do not meet the requirements set out in the document *Registration Requirement: Education and/or you have not completed 1,400 hours of psychiatric nursing practice within the preceding five years.*
 - b. If you are an RPN **registrant** and want to renew your registration.

Reporting and Calculating Practice Hours

3. If you are a current RPN registrant, each year that you apply to renew your practising registration you must declare the number of hours you have practised psychiatric nursing in the preceding calendar year.
4. For hours practised as an RPN in BC in the *last* calendar year, you may self-declare your hours during the renewal process.
5. For hours practised as an RPN outside of BC, or in previous years, you must have your employer(s) provide BCCNP with confirmation of these psychiatric nursing practice hours.
6. **For Practising RPN registrants of BCCNP**, psychiatric nursing practice hours will be recognized as follows:
 - a. If your **job description is consistent with the definition of psychiatric nursing**,¹ **and requires a regulated health professional to hold the position** you may declare the hours worked as psychiatric nursing practice.
 - b. If you are **self-employed** in psychiatric nursing practice and wish to declare those hours as psychiatric nursing practice hours, you must ensure your practice is consistent with the description of psychiatric nursing.¹
 - c. If you are working in a **voluntary role** and wish those hours to be counted as psychiatric nursing practice, you must submit a request to a BCCNP Committee explaining why you believe the hours are consistent with the definition of psychiatric nursing.¹
7. For **applicants and former and Non-practicing registrants**, practice hours will be counted if, at the time the psychiatric nursing practice hours were worked, you held a valid registration with a regulatory authority that regulates psychiatric nurses.
8. You must also meet the requirements found in the document *Quality Assurance: Part A (Quality Assurance Program)*.

¹ As defined in the *Nurses (Registered Psychiatric) Regulation*

Definitions

Practice means any role, whether employed or not, in which the RPN uses their skills and knowledge as a psychiatric nurse. Practice includes direct care, teaching, management, and research.

Psychiatric nursing is described as the health profession in which a person provides the following services:

- a. Health care for the promotion, maintenance and restoration of health, with a focus on psychosocial, mental or emotional health
- b. Prevention, treatment and palliation of illness and injury, with a focus on psychosocial, mental or emotional disorders or conditions and associated or comorbid physiological conditions, primarily by assessing health status, planning, implementing and evaluating interventions, and coordinating health services.

Authority

The BCCNP has established this requirement under the following authority:

- *Health Professions Act* (British Columbia), Sections 16, 19 and 26.2
- *Nurses (Registered Psychiatric) Regulation*, B.C. Reg. 227/2015
- BCCNP Bylaws:
 - Part 5 – Registration
 - 248 – Practising RPN registration
 - 249 – Reinstatement of practising RPN registration
 - 251 – Canadian labour mobility for practising RPNs
 - 283 – Annual renewal conditions and requirements
 - Part 6 – Quality Assurance
 - 302 – Duty to maintain QA records
 - 312 – QA requirements for reinstatement of practising RPN registration
 - 313 – QA requirements for annual renewal of practising RPN registration
 - 316 – RPN practice hours