

Use of Title: Standards for Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners

(Not in effect until approved)

Purpose

This standard applies to registered nurses and nurse practitioners, herein referred to as **REGISTRANTS**¹. This standard identifies the titles, abbreviations and initials registrants may use in Alberta, and the expectations for their use.

Title protection assures the public that an individual has met the College of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CRNA) requirements for registration and is authorized to practise as a registered member in Alberta.

Criteria

To meet this standard, registrants must meet the following criteria.

The registrant must

1. Have a practice permit to use a protected title.
2. Only use a title, abbreviation, or initials that reflect the category in which they are registered on the CRNA register, and include their title, abbreviation or initials in all documentation.
3. NOT use a title, abbreviation or initials in association with the endorsement or promotion of products or services outside of their **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**.
4. NOT use the title "specialist" alone or in combination with other words in a manner that states or implies they are a specialist if they are not authorized to use the title.
5. If using the title 'specialist', must possess
 - 5.1. advanced practice certification and expertise in a specific clinical specialty, and
 - 5.2. have three or more years of full-time experience in the specific clinical practice area where they currently practise.

¹ Words and phrases displayed in BOLD CAPITALS upon first mention are defined in the Glossary.

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6. Adhere to the *Health Professions Act* (HPA) s.128 (7) and refrain from using the title doctor and abbreviation Dr. in connection with providing **HEALTH SERVICE(S)**, and
 - 6.1. registrants who have earned doctoral degrees and are not providing direct patient care, are authorized by the HPA to use the title doctor and abbreviation Dr. when engaging in teaching, research or administration.
7. Adhere to the *Registered Nurses Profession Regulation* (Alta Reg 232/2005, s 14) that identifies the titles, abbreviations and initials that can be used by registrants of the CRNA.

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14(1) A regulated member registered on the registered nurse register may use the title "registered nurse" and the initials "RN".

(2) A regulated member registered on the certified graduate nurse register may use the title "certified graduate nurse" and the initials "CGN".

(4) A regulated member registered on the nurse practitioner register may use the title "nurse practitioner" and the initials "NP".

(5) A regulated member registered on the registered nurse register or on the nurse practitioner register may in accordance with the Standards of Practice use the title "specialist" in connection with providing professional services.

(6) A regulated member registered on the provisional register as a graduate nurse may use the title "graduate nurse" and the initials "GN".

(7) A regulated member registered on the provisional register as a graduate nurse practitioner may use the title "graduate nurse practitioner" and the initials "GNP".

(8) A regulated member registered on the courtesy register as a registered nurse may use the title "registered nurse" and the initials "RN".

(9) A regulated member registered on the courtesy register as a nurse practitioner may use the title "nurse practitioner" and the initials "NP".

Glossary

HEALTH SERVICE – "means a service that is provided to an individual for any of the following purposes:

- (i) protecting, promoting or maintaining physical and mental health;
- (ii) preventing illness;

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(iii) diagnosing and treating illness

(iv) rehabilitation

(v) caring for the health needs of the ill, disabled, injured or dying,

but does not include a service excluded by the regulations." (*Health Information Act*, 2000, s 1[1][m])

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE – “A service that comes within the practice of a regulated profession” (HPA, 2000).

REGISTRANT(S) – Includes registered nurses (RNs), graduate nurses, certified graduate nurses, nurse practitioners (NPs), graduate nurse practitioners and RN or NP courtesy registrants on the CRNA registry.

References

Health Information Act, RSA 2000, c H-5. <https://kings-printer.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/h05.pdf>

Health Professions Act, RSA 2000, c H-7. <https://kings-printer.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/H07.pdf>

Registered Nurses Profession Regulation, Alta Reg 232/2005. https://kings-printer.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/2005_232.pdf