

## Purpose

These **STANDARDS** establish the requirements for approval of registered nurse prescribing education programs. They are intended to protect the public by ensuring approved programs prepare graduates to prescribe safely, competently, ethically, and in accordance with applicable legislation, regulatory requirements, and scope of practice.

### These standards:

- set minimum requirements for RN prescribing program **CURRICULUM** to support quality education;
- promote evidence-informed education and best practices in RN prescribing;
- protect the public's interest by requiring RN prescribing programs to prepare students with the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to prescribe safely; and
- promote accountability and continuous improvement through regular program evaluation to strengthen program quality and student outcomes.

## Standards

### Standard 1: Program Foundations and Entry Requirements

The education **PROGRAM** has a clearly defined purpose, and learner requirements to prepare RNs to prescribe Schedule 1 drugs and order diagnostic tests safely within a specific clinical practice area.

### The prescribing education program:

- 1.1** has processes to continually monitor the availability of resources to optimize student achievement of the **COURSE OBJECTIVES**, and **PROGRAM OUTCOMES**
- 1.2** aligns with CRNA RN prescribing standards and competencies,
- 1.3** has learning outcomes that reflect comprehensive assessment, use of clinical support tools, and appropriate consultation or transfer of care when needed.
- 1.4** outlines admission requirements that include active RN registration with no conditions or restrictions and clinical practice experience aligned with CRNA expectations.
- 1.5** verifies that learners have achieved the RN entry level competencies before entry

<sup>1</sup> Words and phrases displayed in **BOLD CAPITALS** upon first mention are defined in the Glossary.

- 1.6** Has established minimum admission requirements that include:
  - 1.6.1** practicing Registered Nurse;
  - 1.6.2** Clinical environment support
- 1.7** an established process for annual verification that educators, who are under the *Health Professions Act (HPA)*, are registrants in good standing with their respective regulatory college;

## Standard 2: Curriculum and Clinical Application

The curriculum includes clinical reasoning and applied learning experiences for nursing students to successfully achieve the competencies for safe-prescribing in the prescribing education program.

### The prescribing education program:

- 2.1** addresses development, implementation, monitoring, and revision of care plans
- 2.2** has learners achieve RN prescribing competencies through supervised clinical practice, or other appropriate practice-based learning
- 2.3** utilizes learner assessments that include clinical decision-making, communication of care plans, monitoring of outcomes, and documentation quality
- 2.4** has course objectives and program outcomes that align with RN prescribing competencies;
- 2.5** a curriculum with a logical organizing framework that includes theoretical and application processes to enable students to achieve RN prescribing competencies and practice in alignment with the RN prescribing standards;
- 2.6** an evidence-informed curriculum that incorporates emerging trends and their effect on the health care system and patient outcomes;

## Standard 3: Professional, Ethical and Collaborative Practice

The prescribing education program prepares graduates to practice within professional, legal, ethical, and interprofessional frameworks that support safe, coordinated care and public protection.

### The prescribing education program:

- 3.1** prepares learners to practice within competence limits and to consult, refer, or transfer care appropriately
- 3.2** provides ethical content that includes conflict of interest, privacy and confidentiality, informed consent, therapeutic relationships, and role clarity
- 3.3** has learners that are prepared to collaborate with interprofessional teams, communicate effectively across providers, and support continuity of care and public safety
- 3.4** has **PRECEPTORS** that are registrants in good standing and hold an active practice permit with their respective Canadian jurisdictional regulatory college where the preceptorship occurs, who are experientially qualified, well-oriented to the course and preceptor role, and monitored by program educators;

- 3.5** in accordance with the CRNA's current supervision standards, ensures the **SUPERVISION** of students by program educators ;

## **Standard 4: Program Evaluation and Quality Improvement**

The program uses robust learner assessment and ongoing program evaluation processes to ensure competence, quality, and continuous improvement.

### **The prescribing education program:**

- 4.1** has robust and comprehensive processes and strategies in place to evaluate student progress;
- 4.2** has students who have achieved the RN prescribing competencies upon completion of their RN prescribing program
- 4.3** includes formative and summative evaluations of student achievement of specific course objectives
- 4.4** demonstrates regular review towards quality improvement by evaluating curriculum and course components
- 4.5** invites feedback from educators, students and external partners on program curriculum and delivery

# Glossary

**COURSE OBJECTIVES** – The statements that describe what the student is expected to achieve as a result of instruction.

**CURRICULUM** – The essential values, beliefs, and concepts as well as the program/course outcomes, goals, objectives within the overall framework, including the sequential and progressive design of learning experiences. This structure ensures that students acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to meet competencies and standards.

**PRECEPTOR** – An experienced educator who functions as a role model for a student and provides support via a collaborative, collegial relationship.

**PROGRAM** – A planned, coordinated group of activities, including the system of resources and structures to deliver the curriculum to ensure the achievement of the course objectives, program outcomes, and competencies.

**PROGRAM OUTCOMES** – The expected end results of a curriculum that describes the specific knowledge, skills, or attitudes that the students are required to achieve by the completion of the education program.

**STANDARDS** – A set of authoritative statements that describe the minimum requirements for approving an RN prescribing education program. The education program approval standards are the basis by which the actual performance of an education program is measured for approval.

**SUPERVISION** – The consultation, guidance, and oversight by a registrant in the practice setting. Supervision may be direct, indirect, or indirect remote.

## References

*Health Professions Act, RSA 2000, c H-7* [https://kings-printer.alberta.ca/1266.cfm?page=H07.cfm&leg\\_type=Acts&isbncln=9780779850914](https://kings-printer.alberta.ca/1266.cfm?page=H07.cfm&leg_type=Acts&isbncln=9780779850914)