

Am I Practising Nursing?

Introduction

To practise as a nurse in Ontario, you must be registered with the College of Nurses of Ontario (the College). Nursing practice can take place in a variety of roles and settings. This fact sheet outlines the factors to consider when determining if you are practising nursing.

It's important to note that *practising nursing* is not the same as *being employed as a nurse*. Even if you volunteer as a nurse for a non-profit agency, you are performing nursing services and considered to be a practising nurse.

Are you practising nursing?

Complete this checklist to determine if you are practising nursing. Check all of the boxes that apply to your current role.

Step 1

Check if either statement applies to your current role.

- I apply nursing knowledge, skill and judgment in Ontario.
- I have a direct or indirect effect on the recipient of a health care service in Ontario.

Total boxes checked ____

Step 2

Examine your current role and check the activities that you engage in.

Assessment of:

- client health care needs (e.g., physical, social, emotional, psychological, spiritual)
- health care resources (e.g., staffing, equipment)
- the delivery or the facilitation of safe and competent nursing care
- health care needs required by individuals, groups, communities or populations
- context of nursing practice (nurse's working environment)
- impact of nursing policy

Planning by:

- analyzing the findings of a health assessment
- determining the appropriate service, treatment, care provider or equipment
- analyzing nursing issues to support client care/ nursing practice

Intervening by:

- providing treatment (including complementary therapies)
- health teaching or health promotion (including counselling)
- communicating with clients, families, groups, communities or populations
- providing professional advice
- collaborating with care providers
- directly or indirectly influencing the practice of care providers and/or policy
- managing nursing resources (e.g. staff, facilities, equipment)
- developing learning resources for nurses or other care providers

Evaluating individual or health service outcomes by:

- interpreting client health records
- observing and recording outcomes

Other:

- involved with a health-related product (e.g., medical supply) or process (e.g., quality assurance, workload management)
- providing or developing health education using nursing knowledge, skill and judgment
- performing a health-related intervention
- collecting health data
- access to confidential health information
- interacting with those who expect that you have nursing knowledge or skill

Total boxes checked ____

Step 3

Check if you are practising in one of these settings:

- acute care hospital, addiction and mental health centre/psychiatric hospital, complex continuing care/rehabilitation hospital, other hospital
- long-term care facility, nursing home, home for the aged, retirement home
- Community Care Access Centre, community health centre, community mental health program, hospice, nursing/staffing agency, physician's office, public health unit/department, school, group home, street health agency
- independent practice, health care consultant agency, seasonal camp, occupational health services, industry; insurance, pharmaceutical or medical supply company
- health care education, nursing education program or research organization
- governmental health agency, social services agency or nursing organization (labour, professional support, regulatory)

Total boxes checked ____

For more information

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Add up all the boxes you checked in each step:

Total boxes checked in:

Step 1 ____

Step 2 ____

Step 3 ____

I have checked one or more boxes in each step:

YES

You are a practising nurse.

NO

You are non-practising. However, if you are registered with the College you are still required to participate in the College's Quality Assurance program. You are also advised to keep up to date with developments in the nursing profession (for example, by reading the College's *The Standard* magazine or other nursing journals).