



January 5, 2016

**Dear Member,**

Earlier today, we received notification that the Minister of Health has approved the SALPN bylaws for LPN specialized areas of practice (perioperative care, hemodialysis care and advanced orthopedics).

For over a year, we have repeatedly shared our concerns regarding the SALPN Bylaws through discussions and correspondence with the Minister of Health, Ministry of Health officials and representatives of SALPN. Most recently, President Linda Wasko-Lacey sent a letter to Minister Duncan on December 16<sup>th</sup> to reinforce our position. Her comments emphasized that all nursing activities and evidence-informed practice guidelines be viewed through the lens of the applicable legislated scopes of practice and a yet to be agreed-upon collaborative decision-making framework document. We are therefore disappointed and concerned that the SALPN bylaws were approved without this framework in place.

**We recognize that you may have questions about the interpretation, implementation and impact of the new bylaws within your practice setting. Please contact a SRNA Practice Advisor ([practiceadvice@srna.org](mailto:practiceadvice@srna.org)) to share your perspective and any patient-safety concerns.**

Our goal is to work collaboratively with you, employers and other key partners to support you in delivering safe, competent and effective patient care. We also commit to sharing member concerns related to patient safety more broadly with you and key stakeholders. This will help us, and those involved, to more effectively understand and resolve all RN role clarity issues across the province.

During this process, the following information may be helpful regarding the RN Scope of Practice.

- *The Registered Nurses Act, 1988* states in Subsection 2(k) that the “practice of registered nursing means the performance or co-ordination of health care services including but not limited to:
  - observing and assessing the health status of clients and planning, implementing and evaluating nursing care; and
  - the counselling, teaching, supervision, administration and research that is required to implement or complement health care services;”
- Even though RNs may possess overlapping skills with other health care providers, the scope of practice defined in Subsection 2(k) of *The Registered Nurses Act* and the basic registered nursing education makes them distinct from those of other health care professionals.
- RNs coordinate health care, deliver direct care services, and support clients in their self-care decisions and actions in situations of health, illness, injury and disability in all stages of life. Each client requires an RN coordinating the provision of their care needs and working collaboratively within the multidisciplinary team.
- Additional information on RN Role Clarity is available on the [SRNA website](http://www.srna.org/index.php/component/content/article/17-main-section/256-leading-change-registered-nurse) (<http://www.srna.org/index.php/component/content/article/17-main-section/256-leading-change-registered-nurse> )

As always, please share your perspective with me as we navigate this work together. As part of our action plan, we continue to advocate for the finalization and approval of the Collaborative Decision-Making Framework. I'll give you an update on this work in my next message.

Carolyn

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