

Q & A's for RN with Additional Authorized Practice [RN(AAP)] Licensure

Starting Dec 1, 2016 the SRNA will licence a small number of RNs who will be called, an "RN with Additional Authorized Practice". They will have the authority to diagnose, prescribe, and treat limited common medical disorders by following a SRNA developed Clinical Decision Tool (CDT).

Who is the RN(AAP)?

The RN(AAP) is an RN who has successfully completed the educational requirements to attain the competencies needed for the additional authorized practice and has met the SRNA licensing requirements. An RN(AAP) works as part of a collaborative practice team and seeks direction from a physician or from a team of a physician and an RN(NP) when it is required. RN(AAP)s must always have access (e.g. telephone) to a physician or RN(NP) for consultation.

How are RN(AAP)s different from an RN or an RN(NP)?

The scope of practice and role for the RN(AAP) is broader than a RN but is much narrower and restricted than that of an RN(NP). The RN(NP) possesses a larger breadth and depth of knowledge, skill and judgment regarding medical disorders within their specialty of either Primary Care, Adult, Pediatrics or Neonatal. The role of the RN(AAP) practice is not to replace the services provided by RN(NP)s or physicians.

What is a Clinical Decision Tool (CDT)?

They are specific documents developed by the SRNA and interprofessional experts which support the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of limited common medical disorders. They are evidence-informed resources based on published research, grey literature, clinical best practice guidelines, expert opinion, and other resources as required. CDTs are used by the RN (AAP) in conjunction with his/her clinical judgment to ensure appropriate client care is provided.

What are limited common medical disorders?

A limited common medical disorder is characterized by the following features:

- are episodic in nature;
- are health conditions that may be acute but non-urgent, as well as conditions that are chronic without evidence of deterioration;
- have defined signs and symptoms;
- have stable signs and symptoms;
- have predictable outcomes;
- require advanced assessment, diagnoses, and treatment with pharmacological or non-pharmacological interventions, for which the RN has had additional education in association-approved or recognized education courses;
- have an assigned Clinical Decision Tool that is readily available to the RN;
- is not subject to evidence of rapid deterioration or change, except to stabilize and transfer; and
- upon an intervention using a Clinical Decision Tool, the RN in authorized practice is able to manage the anticipated consequences.

Where will these RNs practice?

Initially, the RN(AAP) will practice in northern and remote health care settings in primary care clinics. As the need for timely access to health care services for the public evolves, the RN(AAP) could in the future, practice in other locations within the province.

Where can I check to see if a RN is eligible to be a RN(AAP)?

Check the on-line [Registered Nurse Verification](#) by typing in the name of the nurse. The on-line verification service will show the details of the RN(AAP) licensure including that they are a RN and a RN(AAP). A separate list of RN(AAP)s and their place of employment will be listed in December 2016 on the SRNA website.

Will the RN(AAP) issue a prescription?

An RN(AAP) has the authority and competencies to issue a prescription. In a majority of situations, the employment setting and patient care that is delivered occurs where there are no community pharmacies. Medications will be dispensed as per standards and policies, and will be provided directly to the patient. In some limited situations a pharmacist may obtain a prescription written by a RN(AAP).

Where is the list of medications that they can prescribe?

There is no list of medications that can be prescribed by the RN(AAP). An RN(AAP) is restricted to only ordering medications that are within the Clinical Decision Tools (CDTs). The list of [CDTs](#) the SRNA provides the RN(AAP) are found on the SRNA website. If a medication is prescribed that is not within a CDT, the pharmacist is asked to contact the RN(AAP) directly. After December 1, 2016 the SRNA will post a list of RN's who are licensed to practice as a RN(AAP) and their work contact information on the SRNA website under the [Registered Nurse Verification](#).

Will the RN(AAP) participate in the Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP)?

Currently the RN(AAP) provides services in northern health care settings where access to the electronic health record and PIP program may not be available. However, if there is an agreement between the employer and E-Health Saskatchewan, and there is authorization by the employer policy, then a RN(AAP) may have access to PIP. If there is access, a RN(AAP) is expected to adhere to the standards of practice and the policies for PIP established by the employer and E-Health Saskatchewan.

Can a RN(AAP) prescribe controlled drugs and substances?

An RN(AAP) cannot prescribe any medication regulated by the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and related regulations.

Can the RN(AAP) order tests?

Yes, in order to determine a correct diagnosis, the RN(AAP) may be required to order some tests. The Saskatchewan Medical Laboratory Licensing Regulations was amended in 2013 to allow for RN(AAP) to order tests. The type of test(s) that can be ordered is found in each of the [CDTs](#).

Did the RN(AAP) have specialized training to take this role?

Before December 1 2016, a large majority of the RNs who will have the AAP have practiced in a similar role working under the employer policies and Health Canada Guidelines. While in this role the RN has had to take specialized education. A large majority of the RNs were made eligible for licensure by going through a SRNA developed prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR) while some have completed SRNA approved education courses through Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

Who do I contact at the SRNA for more information?

We invite you to check out the information on [RN\(AAP\)](#) or contact a Practice Advisor at practiceadvice@srna.org