

RN Scope of Practice – Fast Facts

1. Where does the RN Scope of Practice come from?

The *Registered Nurses Act, 1988* is legislation from the Government of Saskatchewan. The government mandates the professional self-regulatory body (SRNA) to regulate the practice of registered nursing in the public interest. The SRNA interprets the legislation to create documents to clarify the practice of RNs. This includes the SRNA Bylaws, standards and foundation competencies, practice documents and position statements.

2. What is the Scope of Practice of an RN?

Scope of Practice is based on what RNs are educated and authorized to perform. RNs perform and coordinate care for stable to complex clients in diverse practice domains and environments utilizing critical thinking, clinical judgment and leadership. The RN possesses the knowledge, skill and judgment to recognize, anticipate, assess and manage client care. RNs assess, plan, implement and evaluate holistic client care using assignment, collaboration and communication for ongoing care needs. RNs in all domains of practice support direct care nurses in the provision of safe, competent and ethical RN care (see *The RN Act, 1988*, section 2k).

3. What is the difference between Scope of Practice and the employer contract?

The Scope of Practice provides the greatest depth and breadth of what an RN can do across all domains and practice environments. Employers contract with RNs to perform specific roles, responsibilities and duties within but not exceeding the scope of practice of a RN. No employer or agency directive (policy, procedure or guidelines) relieves the RN of professional accountability or supersedes the legislation or regulatory body requirements.

4. What do I do if I or my employer is unclear about the RN Scope of Practice?

RNs have an obligation to be knowledgeable and informed about their professional Scope of Practice and also know their individual competencies and limitations. The SRNA has established the professional limitations through interpretation of the RN scope of practice. Employers provide further limitations through the use of policies, procedures and job descriptions. RNs must assess their own individual education and competencies to determine if they can provide the required nursing care safely, competently and ethically. RNs should advocate at all times for safe patient care ensuring the right provider for the right patient at the right time in the right environment. For consultation or advice please contact a SRNA Practice Advisor.

5. Am I responsible for the care provided by other regulated health care professionals?

Each regulated health care professional is responsible for their own practice. However, RNs retain responsibility and accountability for appropriate assignment and coordination of care.

6. Where can I learn more?

- Role Clarity toolkit section on www.srna.org
- Participate in the online [RN scope of practice chat forum](#)
- Read articles in the [Newsbulletin](#)
- Review previously recorded [WebEx scope discussions](#)
- Participate in upcoming discussions via [WebEx and Twitter](#)
- Request a presentation from a [Workplace Educator](#)
- Contact a [SRNA Nursing Practice Advisor](#)