

Ask A Practice Advisor

Terri Belcourt, RN Nursing Advisor, Learning & Engagement

Safe Teaching. Safe Patient Care.

The expectation of safe teaching and learning practices exists to support safe patient care at the bedside. It also supports the integrity of the profession to ensure an RN or RN(NP) has the knowledge, skills and abilities to deliver patient and family-centred care across the care continuum and in any health care setting.

RN Clinical Educators are responsible for assessing the beginning level of knowledge of participants in an education session. This can be obtained through a conversation with participants to clearly understand the foundational knowledge they bring to the educational opportunity. They may also inform their understanding of foundational knowledge of applicable care providers through available resources.

“Understanding the foundation of knowledge for each participant assists the RN Clinical Educator in safely providing targeted learning to participants. This is vital to ensure understanding and application at the bedside and ultimately provide the safest care possible,” explains Terri Belcourt, RN Nursing Advisor, Learning & Engagement.



Ask A Practice Advisor continued

As RNs are often leaders of nursing teams, all RNs are expected to know the scope of practice of team members, as per the Standards and Foundation Competencies for the Practice of RNs (page 16, Competency 76.e.). For the RN Clinical Educator, this means they are confident the skill being taught to the care provider is within the broad boundaries of the legislated scope of practice of that provider, and there is organizational policy to support the provision of the specific skill by the specific care provider.

“RN Clinical Educators are the conduit between a nurse learning a new skill and the patient. Consequently, the RN Clinical Educator must know and understand the role of the specific care providers in delivering the targeted nursing skill, the learning objectives, the types of patients/clients who will be receiving the nursing skill being taught, and the competencies required,” Terri emphasizes.

Within the Standards and Foundation Competencies for the Practice of Registered Nurses, there is a reference to the Registered Nurse in Education: “... focuses on students... plans, implements and evaluates education to address learning needs... creates a professional learning environment” (pg. 8). Within this context, competencies such as 33, 41, 55 and 76 a, b and e apply to RN Clinical Educators as they assess, plan, implement and evaluate learning plans. These competencies also apply to promoting inter-professional collaboration and building teams based on respect for the unique and shared competencies of each team member.

Building Foundational Client Care Knowledge

Programs and courses to support RN Clinical Advisors in teaching:

Primary Care Paramedic – certificate:

<http://saskpolytech.ca/programs-and-courses/programs/Primary-Care-Paramedic.aspx>

Advanced Care Paramedic – Diploma:

<http://saskpolytech.ca/programs-and-courses/programs/Advanced-Care-Paramedic.aspx>

Foundations and scope of LPN practice can be found in Practice Guidelines located on the SALPN website:

<http://www.salpn.com/standards-guidelines/documentation/practice-guidelines>.

Practical Nursing program information available from Saskatchewan Polytechnic:

<http://saskpolytech.ca/programs-and-courses/programs/Practical-Nursing.aspx>

Psychiatric Nursing program information available from Saskatchewan Polytechnic:

<http://saskpolytech.ca/programs-and-courses/programs/Psychiatric-Nursing.aspx>

Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing program information available from Saskatchewan Polytechnic:

<http://saskpolytech.ca/programs-and-courses/programs/Bachelor-of-Psychiatric-Nursing.aspx>

Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing (University of Regina and SaskPolytech collaborative program):

<https://www.uregina.ca/nursing/programs/index.html>

College of Nursing (University of Saskatchewan):

<https://www.usask.ca/nursing/>