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Standards of Practice for Nurse Practitioners Self-Assessment Tool

Name	CRNNS Registration #	Years of Nursing Practice
Practice Setting	Role	

The purpose of the self-assessment tool is to help you determine how well you are meeting the *Nurse Practitioner Standards of Practice (2018)*. Standards for registered nurses are the minimal professional practice expectations for any registered nurse in any setting or role, approved by Council or otherwise inherent in the nursing profession (*Registered Nurses Act, 2006*).

As a nurse practitioner, you are required to meet both the *Standards of Practice for Registered Nurses (2017)* and the *Nurse Practitioner Standards of Practice (2018)*. To assist you in your self-assessment, you may wish to complete this tool as well as the tool for RN practice.

This tool will assist you in determining how well you are meeting each standard and associated indicators in your practice while considering the needs of your client population and your practice setting. The self-reflection that you completed (e.g. FRAME) could be helpful with this process.

As you will note, there is not an option for “not applicable” as the standards are the minimal practice expectations for all NPs in Nova Scotia, regardless of practice setting, and therefore all indicators should apply.

Review the tables and rate yourself on a scale of 1 -4 as to how consistently you are meeting each indicator. At the end of this process, select two indicators to add to your learning plan.

You can choose indicators from either the RN or NP Self-Assessment Tool which you rated as 1 or 2, or indicators that you would like to further develop to enhance your practice.

Standard 1 Responsibility and Accountability

Nurse practitioners are accountable to provide safe, competent, compassionate and ethical care within their legislated scope of practice, educational preparation and individual competence. In their role, nurse practitioners are accountable to critically appraise evidence and to apply best practice in their client care.

Indicator	Am I meeting the expectations of this indicator consistently?			
	Not at all			Always
1.1 I practise according to ethical, legal and professional standards, competencies and guidelines that reflect my increased level of responsibility, accountability and scope of practice.	1	2	3	4
1.2 I practise autonomously as a member of an interprofessional team.	1	2	3	4
1.3 I meet all requirements for licensure, quality assurance and auditing programs.	1	2	3	4
1.4 I communicate with clients in a sensitive, honest and respectful manner that anticipates and responds to their questions and concerns.	1	2	3	4
1.5 I collaborate with clients to develop their plan of care, including discussing the rationale, benefits and risks of investigations, interventions, management and follow-up.	1	2	3	4
1.6 I confirm clients' understanding of their plan of care.	1	2	3	4
1.7 I document client care as required by federal and provincial legislation, regulations and organizational policies.	1	2	3	4
1.8 I use a systematic and timely process to receive, document, track and communicate results of diagnostic tests and referrals.	1	2	3	4
1.9 I maintain, store and transfer personal health information and client health records according to federal and provincial legislation, regulations and organizational policies.	1	2	3	4
1.10 I engage in education and professional development activities to maintain their competence.	1	2	3	4
1.11 I arrange with health care team members and/or employer for ongoing client care when absent from or leaving the practice setting.	1	2	3	4

Notes

Standard 2 Leadership and Advocacy

Nurse practitioners have a leadership and advocacy role in the health care system to enhance quality of care, to influence policy decisions and to improve the delivery of health services.

Indicator	Am I meeting the expectations of this indicator consistently?			
	Not at all			Always
2.1 I develop, implement and evaluate initiatives to promote health and to prevent injury and illness.	1	2	3	4
2.2 I contribute to the development of federal and provincial legislation, standards, policies and practice guidelines related to client care and nurse practitioner practice.	1	2	3	4
2.3 I apply the best evidence in practice, engage in research and/or quality improvement, share information and provide education to peers, other health professionals and clients.	1	2	3	4
2.4 I act as a role model and mentor to registered nurses, other nurse practitioners, students and other health professionals.	1	2	3	4

Notes

Standard 3 Assessment and Diagnosis

Using a holistic client-centred approach, nurse practitioners assess and diagnose clients, including those with acute and/or chronic health conditions and potential life threatening/emergent situations. Assessment and diagnosis are guided by the best available evidence and the determinants of health.

Indicator	Am I meeting the expectations of this indicator consistently?			
	Not at all			Always
3.1 I perform comprehensive or focused assessments appropriate to clients' situations.	1	2	3	4
3.2 I determine clients' health risks and differential diagnoses based on findings of assessments and investigations.	1	2	3	4
3.3 I select screening and diagnostic tests based on the best available evidence, provincial and organizational policies and standards.	1	2	3	4
3.4 I discuss the rationale as well as the potential benefit(s) and risk(s) of screenings and diagnostic tests with clients.	1	2	3	4
3.5 I formulate differential diagnosis/diagnoses, including potential implications, treatment options and expected outcomes/prognoses.	1	2	3	4
3.6 I explain the diagnosis/diagnoses, potential implications, treatment plans, expected outcomes and overall prognosis with clients.	1	2	3	4

Notes

Standard 4 Client Care Management

Client care management is guided by the best available evidence and the determinants of health.

Indicator	Am I meeting the expectations of this indicator consistently?			
	Not at all			Always
4.1 I prescribe medications according to federal and provincial legislation, regulations and organizational policies.	1	2	3	4
4.2 I prescribe pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapies, including controlled drugs and substances, using best evidence and considering potential therapeutic benefit(s) and risk(s).	1	2	3	4
4.3 I advise clients of the appropriate use of prescription and non-prescription medications and required follow-up.	1	2	3	4
4.4 I monitor and evaluate clients' response(s) to the treatment plan and adjust accordingly.	1	2	3	4
4.5 I document and report harmful incidents, near misses and no-harm incidents, including those associated with pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapies, according to federal and provincial legislation, regulations and organizational policies.	1	2	3	4
4.6 I perform both non-invasive and invasive interventions for which they have developed and maintained competence.	1	2	3	4
4.7 I obtain and document clients' informed consent prior to performing interventions.	1	2	3	4
4.8 I use available drug information systems to verify history of clients' prescribed medications, including controlled drugs and substances, when initiating, changing or discontinuing medications.	1	2	3	4
4.9 I comply with federal and provincial regulations related to prescribing controlled drugs and substances as required under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and New Classes of Practitioners Regulations.	1	2	3	4
4.10 I do not prescribe for myself or family members except in an urgent or emergent situation when there is no other prescriber available.	1	2	3	4

Notes

Standard 5 Collaboration, Consultation and Referral

Nurse practitioners establish collaborative relationships with other health professionals. They initiate and accept consultations and referrals related to client care. Consultations and referrals may occur in person, by telephone, in writing or electronically, as appropriate to individual situations.

Indicator	Am I meeting the expectations of this indicator consistently?			
	Not at all			Always
5.1 I communicate with the most appropriate health professional(s) for consultation or referral when clients' health care needs go beyond the nurse practitioner's individual or regulated scope of practice or when another professional's expertise is required.	1	2	3	4
5.2 I evaluate, advice and recommendations for treatment from other health professionals.	1	2	3	4
5.3 I communicate recommendations from consultations or referrals with clients and appropriate members of the health care team.	1	2	3	4
5.4 I provide consultations and accept referrals from other health professionals when appropriate.	1	2	3	4

Notes
