## USE OF REGULATED PROFESSIONAL TITLES

Registered Nurse, Graduate Nurse, Registered Nurse (Extended Practice) and Nurse Practitioner are regulated professional designations in Manitoba. This means that they are protected titles under the Registered Nurses Act; their use is restricted to those individuals who have met and maintained the requirements for registration and have their name entered on the appropriate register(s) at the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba (CRNM). This legal restriction assures the public that a person using one of the protected titles is entitled to practice nursing in Manitoba within the scope of practice determined by CRNM.

CRNM wants to remind members of the College of the following important expectations concerning use of regulated professional titles:

- 1. Individuals use only the title assigned to them by CRNM as a result of having met and maintained the standards for registration on the applicable register(s).
- 2. The following are the regulated titles and abbreviations CRNM members are expected to use:

Registered Nurse RN
Registered Nurse (Extended Practice) RN(EP)
Registered Nurse, Nurse Practitioner RN, NP
Graduate Nurse GN

- 3. Members have a legal and ethical obligation to communicate their regulated title in communication with patients/clients, families and other health care providers as well as in all forms of documentation in the course of their nursing practice.
- 4. Members are practicing nursing only when they are practicing in accordance with competencies, standards and scope of practice determined by the Registered Nurses Act, Regulations and CRNM policies. Some practice is not considered by CRNM to be

- nursing practice and members must not use a regulated professional title if engaging in that practice.
- 5. Nurse Practitioners are also Registered Nurses and are expected to communicate this when they identify themselves. This provides for clear and accurate representation of their registration status. Some members are employed in two positions, one requiring registration as a registered nurse and one requiring registration as a nurse practitioner. In this case, the member signs the designation appropriate to the practice of nursing they are engaged in. Members should be aware that at law, the standard of care is that which could be expected of a reasonable prudent nurse of the same experience and standing in similar circumstances; specialized expertise may lead to a higher standard of care being imposed.
- 6. The two titles Registered Nurse (Extended Practice) and Registered Nurse, Nurse Practitioner are synonymous. Individuals registered on the extended practice register may choose to use one of these two protected titles that is most appropriate to their practice.
- 7. Titles such as BN, MN, Ph.D are academic credentials and are not regulated by CRNM because they do not indicate registration status. These titles may be used in conjunction with regulated professional titles but do not replace them. When members of CRNM are engaged in the practice of nursing, they must use the appropriate regulated title directly following their name; use of academic credential(s) is optional.
- 8. Non-practicing members are not entitled to engage in the practice of nursing.

## **RESOURCES**

Canadian Nurses Protective Society (1994). Negligence. InfoLaw, A Legal Information Sheet for Nurses. Volume 3, Number 1. Ottawa: author.

> For more information, please contact a CRNM Nursing Practice Consultant at (204) 774-3477 or (800) 665-2027 (Manitoba toll-free)

This publication is a practice direction. Practice directions set out requirements related to specific aspects of registered nursing practice. They provide more detailed information related to the Registered Nurses Act, Regulations and By-laws of the College; Standards of Practice for Registered Nurses and Standards of Practice for Registered Nurses on the Extended Practice Register, and the Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses. The College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba (CRNM) is the regulatory organization for registered nurses, nurse practitioners and graduate nurses. CRNM sets the standards for education, registration and practice; supports nurses in meeting the standards; and takes action when the standards are not met. The primary prupose of regulation is public protection.

For more specific information, see the CRNM Standards of Practice for Registered Nurses, the Canadian Nurses Association Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses and the Registered Nurses Act and Regulations. CRNM publications are available on our website at www.crnm.mb.ca

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