



# RHPA

REGULATED HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT

## Under the Umbrella

An Overview of the Regulated Health Professions Act

*Nurse Cynthia notices a resident of her personal care home is displaying symptoms of a urinary tract infection. Cynthia collects a sample, sends it off for a urinalysis and receives the report the next day.*

**L**IKE nurse Cynthia, registered nurses in Manitoba may be authorized to independently order and receive screening and diagnostic tests in the near future. This advance will coincide with the implementation of the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA). The RHPA is “umbrella” legislation which will replace the current profession-specific acts of all regulated health professions. Each profession will have the common RHPA and will also have its own profession-specific regulations. In the case of CRNM, this will mean that our current Registered Nurses Act will be replaced by the RHPA, and our current Registered Nurses and Extended Practice Regulations will be replaced by a new regulation under the RHPA. The College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba is expected to come under this new legislation sometime in the next year.

### The RHPA and the College

One major benefit of umbrella legislation is that it will harmonize the processes of regulatory Colleges across health professions. For example, if someone wanted to lodge a complaint against a registered nurse, a physician and a physiotherapist, under the current legislative environment, they would have to undertake three slightly different processes, each outlined in its own legislation and each with its unique language and context. Under the RHPA, however, the process would be the same regardless of the college. Another example is that all regulatory bodies will be required to have a continuing competence program and standards of

practice for their members — CRNM has had these in place for some time, but this has not been the case for all regulators. As well, the mandate of each regulatory college will be the same across professions. This uniformity in processes, language and structure will help individuals navigate systems and create greater understanding about the role of regulatory bodies. Since some of the RHPA is modeled after our current RN act, many of our processes and programs already align with the RHPA but some of the language will change (our board will be called a council and our discipline committee will be called an inquiry committee, for instance).

### The RHPA and Your Practice

While the RHPA will not have a significant impact on most RN's practice, the most noteworthy aspect of the new act for RN practice is reserved acts. Reserved acts are a list of procedures that have the potential to cause harm if not performed by a competent regulated health professional. As well, there will be changes to the current complaints and discipline processes and to the registration process. We will discuss each of these areas in subsequent *RN Journal* articles.

### New Regulation and Bylaws

As part of the RHPA coming into the force, the College is also drafting a new RN regulation and new bylaws. Members will have the opportunity to review both the regulation and the bylaws and provide feedback.

### Stay Tuned

In upcoming issues of the *Journal* we will explore the RHPA more in-depth including registration, complaints and discipline and a more comprehensive look at reserved acts. Presentations and other resources are also in the works for fall and winter so stay tuned.