

Guidance Document Self-Regulation

College of Registered Nurses and Midwives of
Prince Edward Island

December 2023



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Nursing and midwifery are self-regulated professions under the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA), which was introduced in Prince Edward Island (PEI) in 2018. Self-regulation means that the government has granted the College of Registered Nurses and Midwives of Prince Edward Island (CRNMPEI) the authority to regulate all Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, and Registered Midwives in PEI. The provincial government of PEI has acknowledged that nurses and midwives have specialized knowledge and are the best candidates to govern themselves. The purpose of self-regulation is to ensure that regulated health care professionals practice in a safe, competent, and ethical manner.

Self-regulation is a privilege, not a right. If the college is not shown to be an effective regulator, the government can revoke the authority. When self-regulation is effective, the public has a high level of confidence in the profession.

CRNMPEI sets the standards for education, registration, and practice in PEI. This is done by:

- approving educational programs
- maintaining the registration process
- developing the standards of practice, policies, code of ethics, entry level competencies, and practice directives
- monitoring continuing competency requirements
- managing complaints and enforcing disciplinary action, if appropriate
- providing resources for RNs, NPs, RMs, and their employers

(College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba, 2018)

CRNMPEI is overseen by the Council, which ensures the staff of CRNMPEI are protecting the public's interest and are following policies and procedures that are consistent for each registrant to ensure safe, ethical, and competent care. CRNMPEI's mandate is to regulate the professions in a manner that serves and protects the public interest. When there is a conflict between the public interest and professional interest, CRNMPEI is required to support the interest of the public. An association or union takes on the role of advocacy of the profession, not the regulatory college.

Self-regulation requires nurses and midwives to be accountable for their own practice and to make appropriate decisions based on their:

- Scope of practice
- Code of ethics
- Standards of practice
- Practice context
- CRNMPEI policies, practice directives, and by-laws

(Nova Scotia College of Nursing, 2022)

In order to self-regulate effectively, a registrant should also attain and maintain registration with CRNMPEI and ensure their continuing competency requirements are met each year. Each nurse and midwife should also maintain physical, mental, and emotional fitness to practice.

References

College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba. (2018). *Self-regulation*. Accessed on October 10, 2023 from <https://crnm.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Self-Regulation.pdf#:~:text=The%20College%20of%20Registered%20Nurses%20of%20Manitoba%20is,do%20can%20be%20described%20under%20three%20main%20areas%3A>

Nova Scotia College of Nursing. (2022). *Self-regulation information sheet*. Accessed on October 10, 2023 from <https://www.nscn.ca/professional-practice/practice-support/practice-support-tools/self-regulation/self-regulation-information-sheet>