

Virtual Nursing Licensure Requirements

The College of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador (CRNNL) is the regulatory body for all Registered Nurses (RNs) and Nurse Practitioners (NPs) in the province. The primary mandate of the College is public protection. The College achieves this by ensuring that all RNs and NPs meet the requirements for registration and annual licensure, and by promoting standards for safe, competent, and ethical nursing practice.

This fact sheet addresses licensure requirements for engaging in Virtual Nursing Practice (VNP) in Newfoundland and Labrador. For additional information regarding VNP, see the College's Virtual Nursing Practice document at <https://crnnl.ca/resource-centre/>.

What is Virtual Nursing Practice?

Virtual Nursing Practice (VNP) encompasses all types of nursing care and services that are delivered across distances via virtual care technologies. Nursing care and services may include but are not limited to, education, counselling, assessment, initiation, and evaluation of treatment, and health care monitoring. VNP may encompass the totality of nursing services being provided (e.g., providing nursing services only via virtual care technologies) or VNP may be only one of many different modalities in which nursing services are being delivered (e.g., community clinic/hospital setting where face-to-face, as well as VNP services are offered).

Is licensure with the College required to engage in VNP?

If an RN or NP is physically located in NL, they must be licensed with the College to provide nursing services, including VNP.

If an RN or NP is outside of NL and providing nursing services, including VNP, to residents of NL they do not require licensure with the College.

- With respect to the provision of telehealth services /virtual nursing practice to clients in this province, the College would consider that a nurse is practicing in the province/jurisdiction in which the nurse is physically located. The RN/NP would need to advise their clients where they are licensed (e.g., Ontario) and where/how they can validate their licensure status (i.e., licence verification or member search function on the regulatory body website). If a client wanted to file a complaint/allegation against the RN or NP, they would need to know where the RN/NP holds a licence to practice and the name of the Regulatory Authority where the RN/NP holds the licence (e.g., CNO).

Should the RN's/NP's position change and travel to this province to provide care to NL clients becomes part of the RN/NP role, the RN/NP must contact the College to determine if licensure is required.



I am a Nurse Practitioner. Can I order medications and diagnostic tests for a resident of NL if I am not licensed with the College?

The provincial Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) will not accept an order for blood work or any other diagnostic tests unless the practitioner is licensed with the College. Therefore, if the NP is required to order bloodwork or diagnostics for any NL residents, the NP will need to apply for full licensure. Pharmacists/Pharmacies may or may choose to fill a prescription from a prescriber outside of NL. It is within their clinical judgment to refuse to fill a prescription. If a pharmacist is unable to confirm that the prescriber has a license to practice in the jurisdiction they are located, the pharmacist may refuse to fill the prescription. The prescriber must also determine if a tamper resistant prescription pad is required for those medications that falls under the NL Prescription Monitoring Program.

For those RNs/NP who engage in virtual nursing practice for clients within NL, the RN/NP must be knowledgeable of the College's Virtual Nursing Practice document: <https://crnnl.ca/site/uploads/2021/09/virtual-nursing-practice.pdf>. It is required that the RN/NP be knowledgeable of and apply the Standards of Practice, Scope of Practice, and relevant regulatory documents for the nursing jurisdiction in which the RN/NP is providing virtual nursing practice and services.

For further information or for assistance, please connect with registration services at registration@crnnl.ca.