

Nurse Practitioner Change of Category

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 CRNNL is public protection. CRNNL 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.

CRNNL currently licenses nurse practitioners in one or more of the three categories: adult, pediatric, and family/all ages as follows:

Adult: nurse practitioners licensed in the adult category provide care for individuals 18 years of age and older in either a generalized adult practice where they see adults with a variety of medical conditions, and/or adults in a generalized or specialty practice setting. In some cases, care of older adolescents may also be provided by a nurse practitioner in the adult category when the adolescent's age and/or condition may more closely approximate that of an adult.

Pediatric: nurse practitioners licensed in the pediatric category provide care for individuals under the age of 18 in either a generalized practice where they see individuals with a variety of medical conditions, or individuals in a generalized or specialty practice setting. In some instances, nurse practitioners (pediatric) may provide care to young adults whose developmental age may closely approximate that of a child or adolescent rather than an adult, or a young adult who has been receiving care from the nurse practitioner (pediatric) for a chronic disease since childhood.

Neonatal nurse practitioners are registered within the pediatric category and have specialized education relevant to neonatology.

Family/All Ages: nurse practitioners licensed in the Family/All Ages category provide care for clients across the lifespan, including newborns, children, adolescents, adults, pregnant and postpartum women, and older adults in a generalized or a specialty practice setting.

What is required for a NP to change their category of practice?

A nurse practitioner licensed with CRNNL (i.e., who has met all requirements under section 14(3) of the *Registered Nurses Act, 2008* and sections 8 and 13 of the *Registered Nurses Regulations* and has been issued an NP license) who requests to change their category of practice (e.g. Adult to Family All Ages or Pediatrics to Family All Ages) are required to complete the following:

- i) Graduate-level nurse practitioner course(s) **with theory and clinical components** that include content specific to the new category of practice that was not part of the NPs original NP education program or formal continuing education deemed equivalent. The courses must be completed at a university in Canada that offers a NP entry level program approved by the nursing regulatory body in that jurisdiction for nurse practitioner licensure. The NP must achieve the grade required to pass a course as set by the university for a student enrolled in the NP program;
- ii) write and pass the approved nurse practitioner licensure examination¹ for the new category of practice (e.g., Family All Ages category, the Canadian Nurse Practitioner Examination: Family/All Ages (CNPE: F/AA).



The required theoretical and clinical courses are to be determined by the university the NP selects to complete this education. The NP will be required to meet all admission and other criteria required by a university.

Does CRNNL need to be notified before an NP starts the process?

Notification to CRNNL of the intent to change category of practice is required. Notification may be given by written letter or by email to registration@crnnl.ca.

What documentation is required by CRNNL to validate completion of the change of category components?

- i) Official documentation from the university² communicating the names of the theoretical and clinical courses the university determined the NP to complete;
- ii) Official course transcripts issued by the university³ validating successful course completion; and
- iii) Results of the NP licensure examinations⁴ (i.e. forwarded directly to CRNNL by the exam vendor).

Upon successful completion of the courses and the licensure exam, CRNNL will accept this as validation a NP demonstrates the competencies required to practice as a NP in the new category and change/add their category of NP licensure.

Does a NP licensed in the Family All Ages category complete this process to add the Adult or Pediatric category to their licensure?

No, NPs licensed in the Family All Ages category have been educated to provide care to clients across the life span. An NP currently licensed in this category is authorized to practice with adult or pediatric population(s) where the NP identifies they have the necessary knowledge, skill and judgement to provide safe, competent care to adult or pediatric clients. However, the NP and respective employer should identify necessary orientation and continuing education.

Exception

NPs who intend to change their category to practice in a neonatal care setting are required to complete a full Neonatal Nurse Practitioner education program from an approved university.

Questions regarding NP Change of Category may be directed to registration@crnnl.ca.

¹ The authority to write one of the approved NP licensure examinations is granted by CRNNL following validation that the requirements to write the examination are met. Family All/Ages exam candidates must submit an exam application to CRNNL and following release of names to the exam vendor will be contacted by email to complete the vendor online exam registration process. For Adult and Pediatric exam candidates, CRNNL releases candidate names to the exam vendor and will notify candidate when they can proceed to the vendor site to complete the online exam registration process.

² Submitted to CRNNL directly from the Faculty of Nursing. A list of courses submitted by an NP will not be accepted.

³ Course transcripts must be received by CRNNL directly from the university. Transcripts submitted by an NP will not be accepted.

⁴ Official results of licensure examinations are forwarded directly to CRNNL by the exam vendor.