



Saskatchewan Registered
Nurses' Association
2066 Retallack Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4T 7X5

Initial Registration as a Registered Nurse – Frequently Asked Questions

What does the term “registered” mean?

It means that a person who meets the requirements to be recognized as a “nurse” has been entered into the official register of the Association, in accordance with government legislation.

What does the term “licenced” mean?

It means that a person has been issued a licence to practise nursing, in accordance with *The Registered Nurses Act, 1988*.

What does it mean to be a self-regulating profession?

It means that nurses govern themselves, i.e., that nurses decide who can be licensed, what the standards need to be and that it is nurses who enforce the requirements for conduct and competence in practice, according to government legislation.

What steps do I have to take to become initially “registered” and “licenced” to practise as a registered nurse?

The Act and Bylaws of the SRNA require that you produce satisfactory evidence of the following:

- that you have successfully completed and approved nursing education program
- that you have passed the registration (NCLEX-RN®) examination
- that you are of good character
- that you have complied with the registration bylaws which require that you complete the required forms, pay the required fees, and provide the required documentation
- that, within the past five years, you have completed one of the following:
 - 1125 hours of practice as a RN in SRNA approved nursing activities
 - an approved basic nursing education program
 - an approved nurse re-entry program
- that you are in compliance with Continuing Competence Requirements.

How does the SRNA “regulate” the practice of nursing in Saskatchewan?

Through registration, the issuance of licences, prescribing special categories of practice, approval of nursing education programs, the setting of standards, adoption of a code of ethics, investigation of complaints, and discipline of its members.

Why do I have to be licenced to practise nursing?

To promote and ensure safe nursing and to practise within the law and bylaws of the SRNA. SRNA has a mandate to protect the public from practitioners who are unqualified, incompetent or unethical.

Do I have to be licenced initially in Saskatchewan if I don’t plan on practising here?

The new answer to this question is “no”. A Bylaw change was passed by the membership at the SRNA annual meeting, May, 2009, and passed by the Government of Saskatchewan, that if you do not practise as a RN in our jurisdiction, you do not need to establish initial registration here. Most jurisdictions in Canada are moving to this process. It has not, however, been adopted worldwide. For this reason, it is still in your best interest to establish initial registration in the jurisdiction where you complete your Nursing Education Program. If you choose not to, it may be a barrier to mobility as you move from

jurisdiction to jurisdiction in the future. Registration is a regulatory mechanism used by all Canadian jurisdictions and many worldwide jurisdictions. The requirement of registration is intended to prevent fraudulent practice and to ensure that a nurse meets the requirements to practise nursing, including being a member in good standing.

What benefits accompany my licence to practise nursing?

- The right to practice nursing and to use the title “registered nurse” or “nurse”
- Professional liability protection: is provided by *Canadian Nurses Protective Society* (CNPS), for more information: <http://www.cnps.ca/index.php>
- To participate and be eligible to hold office with the SRNA, to access consulting and counseling services of the SRNA, to access library services, to receive the News bulletin, and to receive all privileges of membership in affiliated national and international associations (i.e. Canadian Nurses Association and the International Council of Nurses).

What responsibilities accompany my licence to practise nursing?

To adhere to the Code of Ethics and to practise competently according to SRNA standards and foundation competencies.

Can I practice nursing in another Canadian jurisdiction?

Only if you are licenced as a nurse by the licencing body in that jurisdiction. Your right to practise with a Saskatchewan licence does *not* extend beyond the provincial borders.

How do I go about establishing registration/licensure in another jurisdiction?

You need to contact the licensing body in that jurisdiction.

When should I establish initial registration?

You should establish initial registration as soon as possible, so that licences and verification of registration documents can be completed in an accurate, timely manner.

For how long is my licence valid?

Nurse licensure in Saskatchewan is valid for up to a one year period, based on the membership year, which currently is December 01 – November 30.