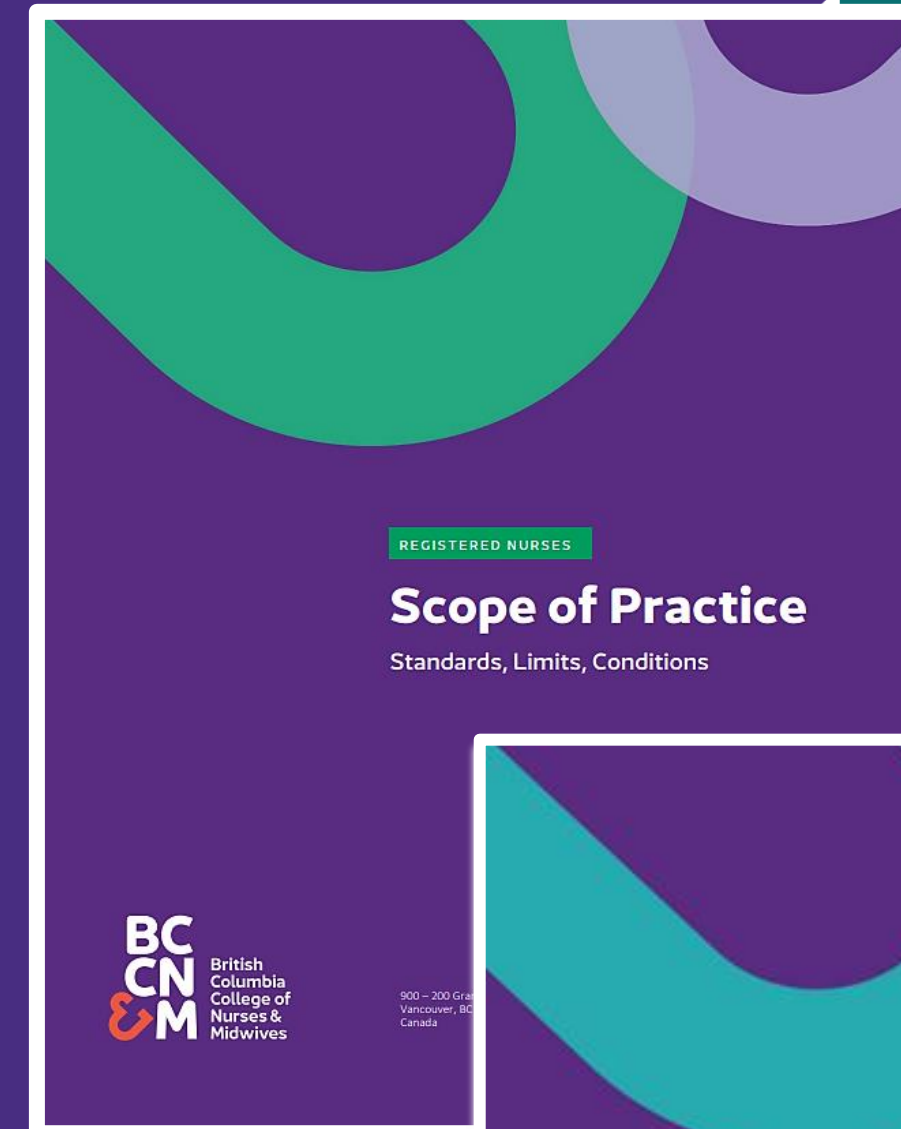


Changes to LPN, RN, and RPN Scope of Practice Documents

2025



Territorial acknowledgement



What we are talking about:

- Why were changes to the LPN RN RPN Scope of Practice documents made?
- What are the key changes?



Nursing Scope of Practice

The activities that nurses are educated and authorized to perform as set out in the

- [Nurses \(Licensed Practical\) Regulation,](#)
- [Nurses \(Registered\) and Nurse Practitioners Regulation,](#)
- [Nurses \(Registered Psychiatric\) Regulation](#)

under the *Health Professions Act* and complemented by **standards, limits and conditions** set by BCCNM.



Nurses need to be aware of, understand, and practice within their legal, professional, and ethical responsibilities outlined in provincial and federal laws and their professional standards of practice and ethics.

Nursing Four Controls on Practice

1. BC Government Regulation:

- Health Professions Act
 - Nurses (Licensed Practical) Regulation,
 - Nurses (Registered) and Nurse Practitioners Regulation,
 - Nurses (Registered Psychiatric) Regulation

2. BCCNM standards, limits, and conditions

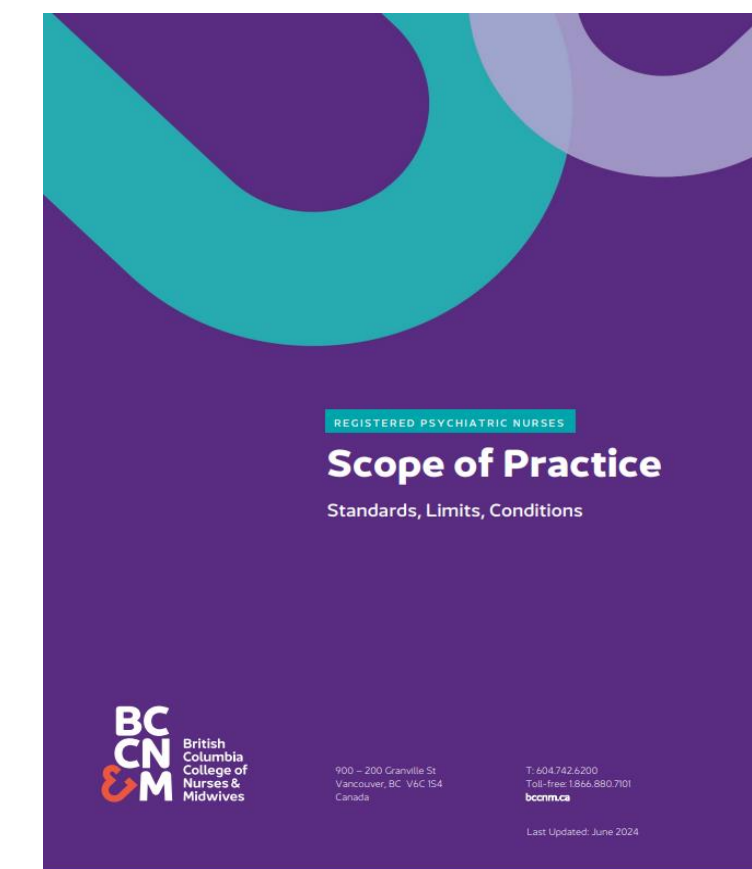
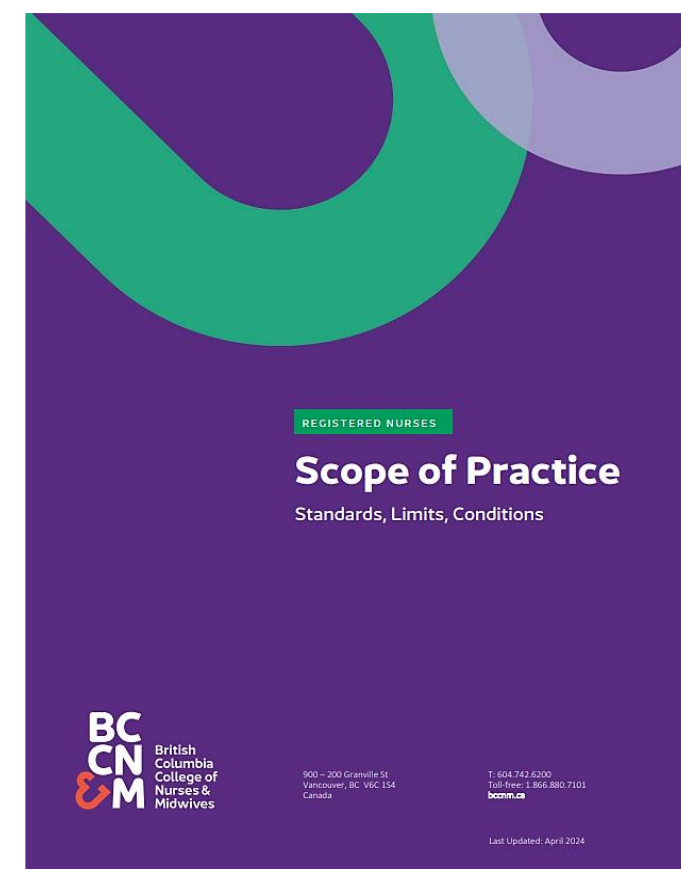
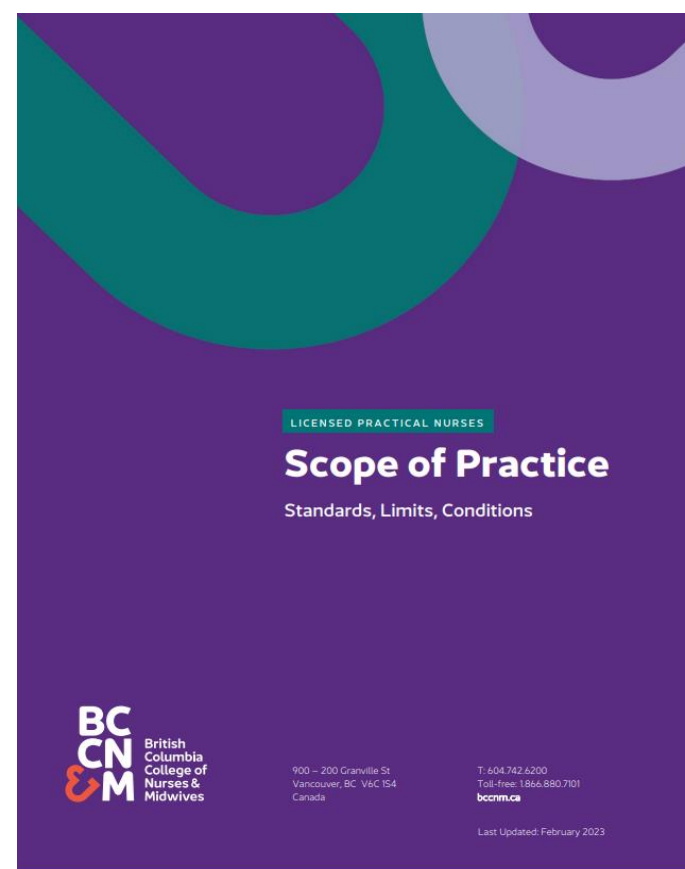
3. Organizational/Employer policies

4. An individual nurse's competence



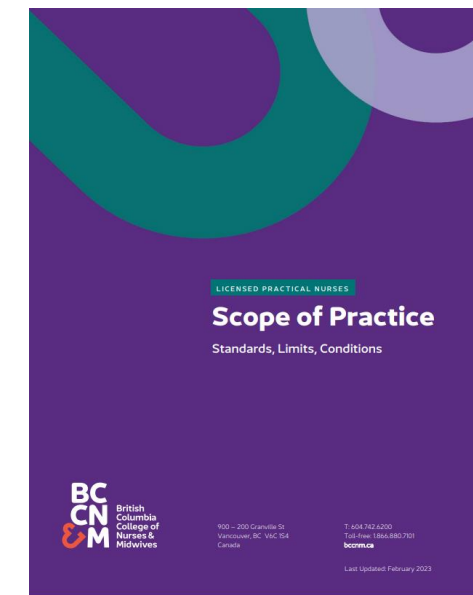
Changes to Scope of Practice Documents

- Licensed Practical Nurses: Scope of Practice: Standards, Limits, Conditions
- Registered Nurses: Scope of Practice: Standards, Limits, Conditions
- Registered Psychiatric Nurses: Scope of Practice: Standards, Limits, Conditions

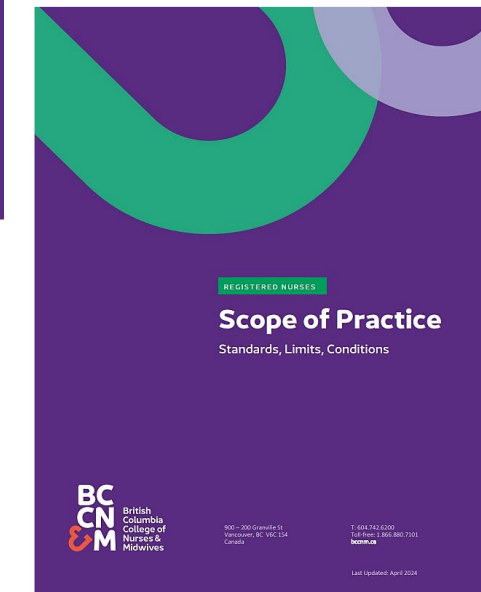


LPN RN RPN Scope of Practice Documents

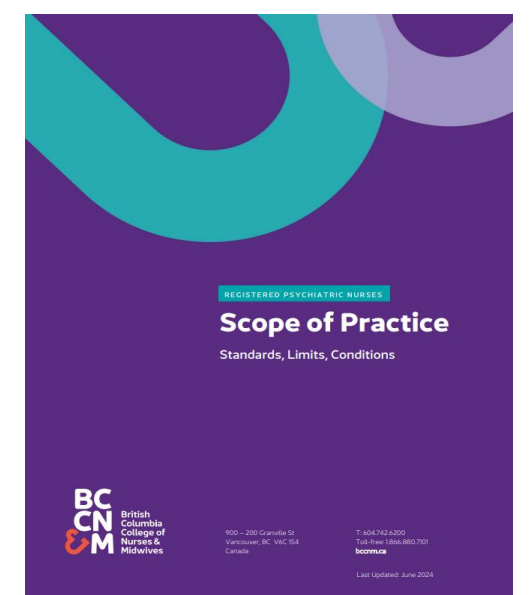
- Developed in 2005 (RNs) and 2015 (LPNs, RPNs).
- Purpose:
 1. Explain BC Government nursing regulations and parts of the [Health Professions Act](#) (HPA) that impact nursing scopes of practice.
 2. Explain **restricted activities** for LPNs, RNs, and RPNs, which are outlined in BC Regulation.
 3. Outline BCCNM **standards, limits, and conditions** related to nursing scope of practice.



(43 pages)



(66 pages)



(66 pages)

RN Scope of Practice

REGISTERED NURSES

Professional Standards

Practice Standards

Scope of Practice

Part 1: The basis for scope of practice

Part 2: Scope of practice standards

Part 3: Activities that are not restricted

Part 4: Restricted activities for registered nurses

Part 5: Medical assistance in dying

Tables of limits and conditions

Resources

Glossary

Learning resources

Sign in

Applications and registration

Professional liability protection

Quality Assurance

Scope of Practice for Registered Nurses: Standards, Limits, Conditions

The *Scope of Practice for Registered Nurses: Standards, Limits, Conditions* publication falls under the umbrella of all BCCNM Standards of Practice. It contains a [preamble](#) that explains what scope limits and conditions work, why they are important and who has responsibility for them.


 Download the [Scope of Practice for Registered Nurses](#)

Table of contents

[Part 1: The basis of scope of practice](#)

[Part 2: Scope of practice standards](#)

- » [Acting within autonomous scope of practice](#)
- » [Acting with client-specific orders](#)
- » [Giving client-specific orders](#)

[Part 3: Activities that are not restricted](#)

[Part 4: Restricted activities for registered nurses](#)

- » [Section 6: Restricted activities that do not require an order](#)
- » [Section 7: Restricted activities that require an order](#)
- » [Section 8: Restricted activities for certified practice](#)

[Part 5: Medical assistance in dying](#)

[Tables of limits and conditions](#)


[Resources](#)

[Glossary](#)

Resources

 [Scope of Practice for Registered Nurses](#)
| 64 pages | 835 KB |

 [Legislation Relevant to Nurses' Practice](#)
| 44 pages | 311 KB |

 [Profile of a newly graduated registered nurse](#)
| 3 pages | 90 KB |

- » [Overview: scope of practice standards](#)

Web learning

- » [Understanding RN scope of practice](#) Web learning module

Even in electronic format, registrants and key system partners report struggling to find the necessary information applicable to current practice settings and complex care needs.

Catalyst for Change: *Health Professions and Occupations Act*

When the [Health Professions and Occupations Act](#) (2022, not in effect) is brought fully into force, it will be critical that nurses are aware of, and understand, their legal accountabilities and responsibilities required by the Act.

The HPOA requires that licensees:

- know their **scope of practice** and
- practice in accordance with **practice standards** established by the regulator.



Summary of Key Changes

1. Transition of **scope of practice** standards to **practice** standards
2. **Limits and conditions** anchored to these practice standards
3. **Narrative content and concepts** transitioned to learning resources.



What is NOT Changing

- No changes to the requirements for LPNs, RNs, and RPNs to meet when **acting within autonomous scope of practice** or **acting with client-specific orders**.
- No changes to the requirements for RNs and RPNs to meet when **giving client-specific orders**.
- No changes to LPN, RN, RPN scope of practice **limits and conditions**.

What is Changing? Standards



- *LPN Acting within Autonomous Scope of Practice*
- *RN Acting within Autonomous Scope of Practice*
- *RPN Acting within Autonomous Scope of Practice*
- *LPN Acting with Client-specific Orders*
- *RN Acting with Client-specific Orders*
- *RPN Acting with Client-specific Orders*
- *RN Acting by Giving Client-specific Orders*
- *RPN Acting by Giving Client-specific Orders*
- *RN (Certified Practice): Acting within Autonomous Scope of Practice*
- *RPN (Certified Practice): Acting within Autonomous Scope of Practice*
- *RN (Certified Practice): Prescribing*
- *RPN (Certified Practice): Prescribing*
- *LPN Medical Assistance in Dying*
- *RN Medical Assistance in Dying*
- *RPN Medical Assistance in Dying*

Limits & Conditions:

Anchored to standards in alignment with accountabilities and responsibilities when:

- Acting within autonomous scope of practice

OR

- Acting with a client-specific order



Proposed changes

What changed? Limits and Conditions

Attached to practice standards:



- *LPN Acting within Autonomous Scope of Practice*
- *RN Acting within Autonomous Scope of Practice*
- *RPN Acting within Autonomous Scope of Practice*
- *LPN Acting with Client-specific Orders*
- *RN Acting with Client-specific Orders*
- *RPN Acting with Client-specific Orders*
- *RN (Certified Practice): Acting within Autonomous Scope of Practice*
- *RPN (Certified Practice): Acting within Autonomous Scope of Practice*
- *LPN Medical Assistance in Dying*
- *RN Medical Assistance in Dying*
- *RPN Medical Assistance in Dying*

What changed? Narrative Content



Scope of practice narrative content and concepts to transition to **learning resources**

What changed?

Definition of Terms

Glossary

- Terms related to regulatory mechanisms (for example, ***additional education***) will be in a glossary within the proposed practice standards
- The term *listed health professional* will be replaced with ***authorized health professional*** to align with the *Health Professions and Occupations Act* (2022, not in effect).

Engagement

We consulted with registrants and key system partners in focus groups/virtual meetings:

- LPN, RN, RPN registrants (including those with certified practice)
- LPN, RN, RPN Educators (including nursing, practical nursing, and psychiatric nursing education programs, clinical site educators, certified practice nursing educators)
- Health Authority Professional Practice Offices
- Health Authority Indigenous Health Offices
- Ministry of Health (Nursing Policy Secretariat, Professional Regulation and Oversight)
- Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of British Columbia



Practice standards were approved by BCCNM Board in February 2025 and came into effect June 4, 2025

These changes are being communicated:

- Newsletters
- BCCNM website:
 - [LPN, RN, RPN Scope of Practice project](#)
 - [LPN Practice Standards](#)
 - [RN Practice Standards](#)
 - [RPN Practice Standards](#)
- New learning resources

