



Project News #9



A question and answer update on the NRP-FIPP

The Nurse Practitioner Regulation Framework Implementation Plan Project (NPR-FIPP) recently accomplished a major milestone. In November, the CCRNR Board recommended the revised Nurse Practitioner Entry-Level Competencies (NP ELCs) for review and approval by the provincial/territorial regulators. Final approval is now in progress in each province and territory.

As this exciting new process rolls out, we are pleased to provide an update on various elements of the project initiatives with the following answers to questions we have received:

1. What is the purpose of the NPR-FIPP and what does it seek to accomplish?

The purpose of the NPR-FIPP is to plan for a new model for NP regulation across Canada, which involves moving towards:

- Graduate-level education programs aligned with revised NP ELCs
- A single national NP entry-level exam for all NPs across Canada
- One NP registration category based on core NP ELCs.

The ultimate goal is that NP entry-level education programs in Canada will **prepare students for general NP practice across the life span of clients in all practice settings**. Eventually, regulators will no longer be registering new NPs in specialties. NPs currently practicing in specialty areas will continue to be regulated. We anticipate that work to define future areas of specialization after registration will continue into the future – for more information, see answer to question 5 below.

The vision for the new model for NP regulation is to:

- Enable the appropriate level of regulation in the public's interest, focusing on patient and cultural safety
- Promote consistency in regulation across jurisdictions
- Facilitate collaboration among regulators
- Reduce unnecessary barriers and advance labour mobility across the country
- Enhance public understanding about the role and practice of NPs

IN THIS ISSUE

A QUESTION AND ANSWER UPDATE ON THE NPR-FIPP

2. What has happened since CCRNR forwarded the NP entry-level competencies for jurisdictional approval?

Since the CCRNR Board recommended the revised NP ELCs for jurisdictional approval in November 2022, each nursing regulatory body has been taking necessary steps to get them approved with implementation following within their own jurisdiction.

Almost every jurisdiction has now approved the NP ELCs and are communicating with NP education programs about revising their curriculum to reflect the revised competencies. The NP ELCs will inform the curriculum for NP education programs across Canada.

NOTE: Your jurisdiction may still be in the process of consulting with stakeholders about the NP ELCs. Please contact the [nurse regulator in your jurisdiction](#) for their official version of the NP ELCs as they may have made minor changes to the CCRNR Board-approved version to align with specific legislation or communication approaches.

3. When will NP education programs start aligning their curriculum with the revised NP ELCs?

This will depend on the unique timelines of the various jurisdictions.

4. If schools will eventually be aligning their curriculum with the revised NP ELCs, then when will the new NP exam be ready?

The CCRNR Exams Committee estimates that the exam will be ready in 2026 – in time for students to graduate from the NP programs' new curriculum. Now that the NP ELCs are available, they will be used to inform the Practice Analysis work that needs to be completed before other aspects of the exam preparation, such as item writing, testing and implementation can happen. We will soon have more updates to share about the new NP exam project on its [dedicated page](#).

5. If the ultimate goal is that NP programs will prepare students for general NP practice across the life span of clients in all practice settings, what will happen to the registration status of existing NPs with specialties?

The registration or licensure status of nurses who are already licensed or registered as Nurse Practitioners will not be affected. As this work continues, jurisdictions will be considering options to transition NPs who are currently registered with a specialty to the new regulatory model. This work will involve identifying the pros and cons of these options, seeking input from NPs and interested parties, ultimately making recommendations to the CCRNR Board and their individual regulatory bodies for consideration and decision.

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We welcome your comments or questions. Submit them by using the form on the bottom left side of the [NPR-FIPP project page](#). We will answer you directly and may even feature your question in a future issue of the newsletter for the benefit of others who may be interested.