



## Nurse Practitioner Regulation Framework Implementation Plan Project (NPR-FIPP)

# Frequently Asked Questions: General

### What is NPR-FIPP?

The Nurse Practitioner Regulation Framework Implementation Plan Project (NPR-FIPP) is a multi-year, multi-faceted initiative commissioned by the Canadian Council of Registered Nurse Regulators (CCRNR). The CCRNR was formed in 2011 to promote excellence and support collaboration in professional nurse regulation. It is made up of representatives from Canada's 12 provincial / territorial (jurisdictional) bodies that regulate the practice of registered nurses and nurse practitioners (NPs).

The NPR-FIPP builds on previous work with a goal to implement the recommendations endorsed by CCRNR regarding six basic elements of a new model for Nurse Practitioner regulation in Canada.

Additional details about the six elements that were recommended and their development can be found in the [project backgrounder](#).

### Why is there a need for a new vision for NP Regulation?

Common entry-level NP competencies emerging from the [NP practice analysis work in 2015](#) created the foundation to re-imagine NP regulation in Canada. The new vision for NP regulation will:

- Improve the public and profession's perception of NP regulation consistency
- Enable the appropriate level of regulation in the public's interest
- Facilitate collaboration in resource sharing, building evidence and standardization across jurisdictions
- Reduce unnecessary barriers and advance labour mobility across the country
- Enhance public understanding of the NP's role and practice - safe, knowledgeable, and competent

### Were NPs involved in developing the new vision for NP Regulation?

Stakeholder groups, including NP leaders nationally and within each jurisdiction were consulted during the recommendation phase. Examples of NP groups that were consulted included:

- NP Associations & Special Interest Groups
- NP Employer / Union / Health Authority Groups
- NP Faculty Program Leaders & Educators
- NP Leaders & Influencers

### How will NP Regulation be Different in the Future?

- There will be one NP registration category based on NP entry level competencies
- There will be one national entry-level exam for all NP applicants across Canada
- There will be greater consistency in how NPs are regulated across jurisdictions
- NP specialty practice will not be regulated by nursing regulatory colleges

NP educational programs will need to be adjusted to reflect any changes to NP entry level competencies.

### **How will the NPR-FIPP handle possible gaps in specialty practice?**

It is important to note that the goal of the NPR-FIPP is to have only one NP registration category. However, a Specialty Practice Think Tank, made up of selected leaders/organizations from across the system, will collaborate to determine how best to proceed when regulators step away from regulating NP specialty practice in the future.

The work of the Specialty Practice Think Tank is delayed because we are giving time for the Canadian Centre for Advanced Practice Nursing Research (CAPNR) to first complete current research on evidence-informed recommendations regarding the certification of Advanced Practice Nurses working in Canada.

### **What will happen to the registration status of existing NPs?**

The registration or licensure status of nurses who are already licensed or registered as Nurse Practitioners will not be affected. Mechanisms to transition existing NPs to the new regulatory model have not yet been identified.

### **When will the new NP regulation model be implemented?**

The project is a multi-year initiative developed by CCRNR and will be approved and implemented by each jurisdiction. National and jurisdictional consultation will help to inform implementation timelines and we will share related information through the NPR-FIPP newsletter available on the [project webpage](#).

### **Who is responsible for running the NPR-FIPP?**

The NPR-FIPP is run by a Steering Committee made up of representatives from 11 regulatory bodies across Canada who have expertise in nursing regulation and are responsible for regulating NPs in their jurisdiction. They are responsible for the overall project plan, activity sequencing and timing, including communications and engagement planning.

### **Are there NPs on the Steering Committee?**

The Steering Committee does not have representatives that are Nurse Practitioners (NPs). As the project focuses on NP regulation, the Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from 11 regulatory bodies across Canada who have expertise in nursing regulation and responsible for regulating NPs in their jurisdiction. Some regulatory bodies have NPs on staff, and some have NPs on their Board / Council; all of them have mechanisms to engage and consult with NPs in their jurisdiction.

### **How can NPs continue to stay informed and get involved?**

We post [regular project updates](#) and answers to stakeholder questions on the CCRNR website. Further, there will be opportunities for NPs to have a voice in the implementation planning in the following ways:

- The Stakeholder Advisory Panel includes twelve individuals representing the voice of NP practitioners, researchers, educators, union members, and employers. Ten panel members are NPs.
- A Specialty Practice Think Tank will promote collaboration and problem-solving regarding system needs as the model for NP regulation is implemented. NP leaders will be involved.
- Examination, Education and other Project sub- committees and work groups will involve or engage with NPs.
- Consultation activities will directly engage with NPs at the national and jurisdictional level

Want more information? Have a question or comment?

Visit the project website: <http://ccrn.ca/npr-fipp.html>

