

Registered Nurse and Nurse Practitioner Interjurisdictional Licensure for Virtual Care

Registered Nurses (RNs) and Nurse Practitioners (NPs) providing care to clients in another province are required to be licensed in that province with the appropriate regulatory body. It is important to understand that this applies whether the care is in-person in the other province or virtually to a patient or client that is located in the other province at the time care is provided. All RNs and NPs have a professional responsibility to be appropriately licensed and the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) has a responsibility to ensure that staff are appropriately licensed for the care they are expected to provide.

All managers, please consider the work of the RNs and NPs reporting to you and ensure that they are aware of the need for appropriate licensure to support interprovincial duties. Please request the RN or NP to follow-up with the applicable regulatory bodies and provide evidence back to you of appropriate licensure during the annual credential review process.

I am also pleased to inform you that the College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan (CRNS), formerly the SRNA, and the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CARNA) have signed an agreement to launch a pilot program that will support interjurisdictional registration for RNs and NPs providing virtual care. The agreement will enable Saskatchewan RNs and NPs — meeting predetermined criteria — to be appropriately licensed to provide virtual care services to residents in Alberta.

The pilot program is currently scoped to a small group of RNs employed at Alberta Health Services (AB), Covenant Health (AB), Indigenous Services Canada (AB/SK) and Saskatchewan Health Authority (SK). RNs or NPs providing telehealth and virtual care services to residents of Alberta may qualify to participate in this pilot program, which waives the licensure fee in the second province.

The pilot is anticipated to go-live on November 25, 2021. RNs and NPs who qualify will be required to license with CARNA through an expedited process. To facilitate participation in this pilot program, we are requesting that managers submit the name, position and department of qualifying RN's and NP's to andrea.deregowski@saskhealthauthority.ca. The SHA will provide the list of names of those who qualify to the CRNS who will then work with CARNA to ensure a smooth licensure process. If individual RN's and NP's not on the SHA submitted list apply directly to CRNS to participate in this program, CRNS will contact the SHA to verify that they meet the criteria prior to expediting licensure through the pilot program.

If Managers, RNs or NPs have any questions about licensure or the pilot program, please direct them to the regulatory team at the CRNS at regulation@crns.ca.