



**Canadian Council of Registered Nurse Regulators (CCRNR)**  
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## **Nurse Practitioner (NP) Practice Analysis FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **1. What is the purpose of the NP Practice Analysis?**

The NP Practice Analysis will provide a comprehensive description of the entry-level knowledge, skills and abilities required for NP practice in Canada. It will inform a national consensus on NP registration, licensure, exam requirements, etc. It will also provide a description of the clinical services (e.g., prescribing, ordering tests, performing procedures) that NPs in Canada are currently providing to clients.

The NP Practice Analysis is being conducted by the Canadian Council of Registered Nurse Regulators (CCRNR) with the support of the 12 regulatory bodies across Canada.

### **2. What methodology was used for this study?**

CCRNR established an NP Practice Analysis Research Advisory Committee comprised of six researchers from across Canada with expertise in NP practice. A comprehensive literature reviewed informed development of the competencies for the practice analysis. Expert consensus was achieved through three comprehensive reviews by national NP subject-matter-expert panels. An on-line survey was sent to NPs licensed/registered in all Canadian provinces and territories. A survey was also sent to Canadian university NP Programs to validate these competencies.

### **3. How were NPs involved in the development of this study?**

NPs from across Canada volunteered their time and expertise to support this project. Close to 60 NPs participated as subject-matter-experts and survey pilot testers.

### **4. How will the results of the NP Practice Analysis be used?**

The results will be used to inform future regulatory decisions about one or more entry-level exams for NP licensure/registration/certification in Canada. The goal is to harmonize entry-level exam requirements for NPs across the country.

### **5. When will the results be available?**

The NP Practice Analysis will be completed in the spring of 2015. The report, outlining the results and recommendations, will be sent to CCRNR for review and approval.

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**NP Practice Analysis – Frequently Asked Questions – Document Date: February 4, 2015**

**6. Were all NPs in Canada included?**

The majority of NPs in the family/all ages, adult (cardiology and nephrology in Quebec), and pediatric streams in all provinces and territories with all levels of experience were invited to participate.

**7. Who was not included?**

- a) The NP Practice Analysis did not include NPs in the neonatal stream. Given that the practice analysis will not be used to inform future decisions about a neonatology exam, NPs specializing in neonatology were not included.
- b) New graduates who were not yet licensed/registered/certified as NPs in Canada at the time of the survey were not included.
- c) NPs who had not practised in an NP clinical role within the 12 months prior to dissemination were not included.

**8. Were Canadian universities involved?**

All universities in Canada with an approved NP program were invited to participate in the NP Practice Analysis educator survey. NP educators were asked to validate the competencies and whether these competencies reflect NP practice at the entry-level.

**9. How will this project improve mobility of NPs in Canada, including internationally educated NPs?**

A national NP entry-level exam will provide consistency for Canadian and international applicants applying for licensure/registration/certification in Canada. In addition, this will reduce barriers for NPs moving from one jurisdiction in Canada to another.

**10. Where can I get more information?**

For more information, please visit the CCRNR website [at www.ccrnr.ca](http://www.ccrnr.ca)