



The Nova Scotia College of Nursing (NSCN) is the regulatory body for licensed practical nurses (LPNs), registered nurses (RNs), registered psychiatric nurses (RPNs) and nurse practitioners (NPs) in Nova Scotia. Our mandate is to protect the public by promoting the provision of safe, competent, ethical and compassionate nursing services by its registrants. The term nurse in this document refers to LPNs, RNs, RPNs and NPs unless otherwise stated.

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Our practice support tools are developed using current reference material. The source of this material is available upon request.



Tool Overview

Nursing practice occurs in a variety of roles and settings. To practice as a nurse in Nova Scotia, you must be registered and hold a current license with NSCN. Only hours accumulated in a role that requires nursing knowledge, education, and meets the legal definition of [nursing services](#) can be counted towards your nursing practice hours. This assessment tool will assist you in determining if you can count your practice hours as nursing practice or if you need additional clarity from NSCN on your individual role.

Assessment Criteria

Reflect on your current or potential role, including a review of your job description, if available, when considering the statements below. Respond yes or no to each statement.

CRITERIA	RESPONSE
1. My position description is consistent with the legislated definition of nursing services as defined in the Nursing Act .	
2. My practice requires me to utilize the steps of the nursing process when providing nursing services: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• assessment• diagnosis• planning• implementation• evaluation	
3. My practice requires me to utilize nursing theory, because the recipients of my nursing services expect that I apply my nursing knowledge and experience in my role.	
4. My practice requires me to apply nursing knowledge, skills and judgment taught in a nursing program, as well as those acquired in continuing nursing education, in the provision of nursing services in clinical practice, nursing education, research, policy development, leadership, administration, and/or regulation .	
5. My practice requires me to provide nursing services that meet the scope of practice of my designation as outlined in the Nursing Scope of Practice Guideline .	
6. My position description requires me to practice in accordance with the Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics of my nursing designation (LPN, RN, RPN, NP).	
7. My employer provides policies and procedures as well as liability protection for my position (note: self-employed nurses are required to develop their own policies and procedures).	
8. My practice requires knowledge of the health care system and has a direct or indirect influence on individuals, groups, communities or populations.	
9. My practice requires critical thinking , problem-solving, professional judgment and accurate interpretation of health and nursing information from a variety of sources.	

If you answered no to one or more of the above statements, please contact a NSCN Practice Consultant at practice@nscn.ca.

Suggested Reading

- [Self-Employed Practice Guidelines](#)
- [Currency of Practice](#)

For further information on anything contained within this tool, please contact a NSCN Practice Consultant at practice@nscn.ca.