

CRNA

College of Registered
Nurses of Alberta

Standards Framework

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Standards Framework

Standards Purpose

Standards are developed to reduce the risk of harm to the public by clearly identifying the minimum expectations that registrants must meet when providing professional services.

Standards may be developed because it is legislatively required, government mandated, or when broader direction is required to serve the public interest and to prevent or reduce the risk of harm to the public.

Framework Principles

Evidence Informed

The standards are established on a foundation of current research, best practices and societal norms, ensuring that data and outcomes are integral to their formulation. The development process is transparent, with clear communication of decisions and input from external partners.

Clear and Consistent

The standards use clear and unambiguous language to provide detailed guidance on the expectations and duties of registrants to deliver safe, competent and ethical care across diverse settings and practice areas.

Availability

The standards are readily accessible to the public and registrants via numerous channels and through all levels of the CRNA's service delivery.

Relevant and Responsive

The standards are reflective of current practices among registrants in health care settings and are designed to be adaptable, allowing for adjustments in response to changes within the practice environment. They are relevant to today's needs and responsive to tomorrow's advancements.

Public-centred Focus

The standards prioritize the public interest, patient safety and quality of care, while also embracing diversity, inclusivity, equity, accessibility and cultural safety. They provide clear guidance on how registrants can align their practice with the standards of practice and code of ethics, ensuring that the care provided meets the minimum expectations.

Enforceability

The standards clearly indicate the expectations for registrants in the provision of nursing services.

Process

Development of standards for registrants involves multiple steps to ensure the standards are comprehensive, evidence-informed and align with legislative requirements.

These steps include:

Establish the Need and Scope

- **Define purpose:** clearly state the purpose of developing new standards, revising existing ones or withdrawing standards.
- **Identify scope:** determine the areas of nursing practice the standards will cover, including the domains of practice.
- **External partnerships:** connecting with external partners to anticipate needs and scope.

Research and Evidence Review

- **Literature review:** conduct a comprehensive review of current literature, including existing standards in other jurisdictions, best practices and recent research findings.
- **Benchmarking:** compare with standards from other provinces, countries and international bodies.
- **Legislative compliance:** reviewing applicable legislation to ensure alignment.

External Partner Engagement

- **Identify external partners:** include the public, registrants and key external groups.
- **Consultation:** engage external partners through surveys, focus groups, and consultations to gather input and ensure the standards meet the needs of the public interest.

Drafting Standards

- **Core competencies:** identify and define the core competencies required for safe, competent and ethical practice.
- **Structure and format:** develop a clear, concise and accessible format.
- **Incorporate feedback:** use feedback from external partners to refine and improve the draft standards.

Process Cont.

Review and Validation

- **Government review:** submit draft standards to government for review and comment.
- **Final drafting:** consider feedback gathered to refine the draft standards.

Approval and Adoption

- **College Council:** obtain Council's approval for implementation of the standards.

Implementation

- **Communication:** use various communication channels to disseminate the standards to the public, registrants and all external partners such as, the CRNA's websites, emails and newsletters.
- **Collaborate:** with internal departments for the operationalization of any changes.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Continuous monitoring:** establish mechanisms for ongoing monitoring of the standards, including feedback from public, registrants, external partners and internal operations (e.g., conduct data, practice consultations).
- **Regular review:** schedule regular evaluation and updates of standards to reflect changes in practice, technology and health care delivery.

Documentation and Reporting

- **Records management:** maintain thorough documentation of the development process, external partners inputs, decisions made and rationale for the decisions.
- **Reporting:** regular reporting on the progress of the implementation and impact to the senior leadership team and Council.

Decision-making Algorithm

The decision-making algorithm summarizes the decision-making process to determine whether to develop a standard of practice.

