



Registered Nurses Association of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut

Opening Remarks

The New Classes of Practitioners Regulations (2012) is Federal legislation that identifies Nurse Practitioners (NPs), midwives and podiatrists as “practitioners” as defined by the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (1996). This new legislation allows NPs to prescribe any controlled drug and substance EXCEPT heroin, *cannabis (marihuana), opium, coca and anabolic steroids. The only anabolic steroid that may be prescribed by NPs is testosterone. The New Classes of Practitioners Regulations are included in the learning package and you are referred to the exact page which identifies these exceptions.

Renewals for narcotics are not allowed under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. Some suggestions for writing prescriptions are included in the learning package (Guidelines from Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board, 2008).

Relevant documents that apply to NP practice include the Code of Ethics (2008), Standards of Nursing Practice (being updated currently), the NP Core Competency Framework (2010), the RNANT/NU Practice and Prescriptive Guidelines for Nurse Practitioners (2011), and the Nursing Profession Acts of the NWT and Nunavut.

*There have been recent additional amendments to the New Classes of Practitioners Regulations with regards to the prescribing of marihuana for medical purposes. The safe prescribing of medical marihuana by Nurse Practitioners will be addressed by the provincial and territorial nursing colleges and associations in the future. Please direct questions, comments, or concerns to the Executive Director and/or Registrar of the RNANT/NU.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Cook NP".

Elizabeth Cook MN NP

Chairperson NP Practice Committee