



COLLEGE AND ASSOCIATION OF NURSES
of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut

Nurse Practitioner FAQs

If I am registered as an NP, can I work as an RN?

Yes, but there are several things to consider and to be aware of. Nurse practitioners (NP) in the NT/NU are registered nurses (RN).

Before accepting to take on the role of an RN you must determine whether you have the knowledge and competence to work with the specific patient population, and/or role such as a Community Health Nurse (CHN). Once this determination is made and you accept the work assignment, it must be clear to the employer, the health care team and clients that you are practicing as a RN and not as a NP. You must utilize the designation RN when identifying yourself or signing as an RN.

However, because you are an NP, you will be expected to apply your knowledge in advanced health assessment which means you may assess and identify patient issues that an RN might not. If so, you would be expected to report your assessment finding to the most responsible practitioner for follow-up.

CANNN does not support concurrent or simultaneous practice where within the same position, shift or clinical situation, an individual practices both as a NP and as a RN. This contributes to role confusion, blurring of accountability and raises the risk of practicing out of scope.

The hours you work as an RN do not count towards your NP hour requirement. As an RN you must have 1125 of RN practice in 5 years; and as an NP you must have 1125 hours of NP practice in 4 years. There is the possibility that you could not meet the hour requirements for practice as an NP or RN.