

The College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses Of Manitoba

Under the authority of The Registered Psychiatric Nurses Act, the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba (CRPNM) has the responsibility to ensure all Registered Psychiatric Nurses practise safely and competently. The College is responsible through self regulation to assure a safe, accountable and ethical level of psychiatric nursing practice, and is responsible for establishing and maintaining continuing competency programs to promote high practice standards.

The profession adopts a Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice to which all practising members are committed.

As a public service, the College is committed to enhancing the profession in its ongoing promotion of psychiatric nursing education and expertise.

To provide services as a Registered Psychiatric Nurse in Manitoba, an individual must be registered with the CRPNM.

For more information:

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THE COLLEGE OF
REGISTERED PSYCHIATRIC NURSES OF MANITOBA

A Rich Tradition
Unique Abilities
Skilled Practice

Registered Psychiatric Nurses in Manitoba

A Rich Tradition of Providing Care

For over 80 years, Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPNs) have been an indispensable part of Manitoba's psychiatric and mental health services delivery system. They were educated and first began working in Manitoba's care facilities in the 1920s. Decades of service by RPNs have resulted in a respected and honoured legacy – a record of providing high standards of skilled and compassionate care for persons with a mental illness or emotional problem.

There are over 5,000 Registered Psychiatric Nurses in Canada, with approximately 1,000 RPNs practising in Manitoba. Psychiatric Nursing is recognized as a distinct health care profession throughout western Canada and many other countries – a profession that is growing and adapting to meet the changing needs of individuals, families, groups and communities as well as the health care system.

Serving the Public

The College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba (CRPNM)

In order to practise within Manitoba's health care system, RPNs must be registered with the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba, whose primary mission is to ensure safe and effective psychiatric nursing services for the people of Manitoba.

This brochure has been developed by the CRPNM to provide information about Registered Psychiatric Nurses and their roles and responsibilities in serving the public in Manitoba.



Education Programs

In Canada, Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPNs) are educated in the four western provinces. They receive their basic education in psychiatric nursing at the diploma or baccalaureate level – with special educational focus being placed on psychiatric and mental health issues and care delivery.

Unique Abilities

RPNs work in challenging clinical environments and in interdisciplinary team settings. They need to continually exercise sound judgment in making decisions and solving problems to meet clinical challenges and the health care needs of patients/clients.

Working in Partnership

RPNs form the largest single group of mental health professionals in Manitoba. RPNs are on the front lines, working as key members in an interdisciplinary team of health care professionals. They provide care and services in hospitals, facilities and communities and are at the heart of care delivery to patients.

Making a Difference Across Mental Health

RPNs are employed in a broad range of settings that provide challenging and exciting opportunities for those interested in health care or a career in the mental health field. They work as staff psychiatric nurses, community mental health workers, addiction counselors, therapists, managers, faculty, researchers, case managers, and consultants in hundreds of communities in Manitoba and Canada. They also work in mental illness prevention and mental health promotion programs.

RPNs Providing Leadership

Many of Canada's experienced RPNs are actively involved in leadership roles in the country's health system.

These RPNs play key roles in strengthening the delivery of mental health services by serving as team leaders, supervisors, senior administrators and decision makers bringing valuable psychiatric nursing perspectives to their leadership roles, clinical settings and the health services delivery system and therefore helping to sustain and improve mental health services.

As well, many RPNs play an invaluable role in the education of students. Experienced RPNs serve as mentors, preceptors and role models for psychiatric nursing and other students. The insight and skills they share ensure the psychiatric nurses of tomorrow are better prepared for this dynamic profession.



Since 1995, the Manitoba psychiatric nursing education program is based at Brandon University, which offers the Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing program at both its Brandon and Winnipeg sites. Post-diploma programs for RPNs have also long been available in both Manitoba (Bachelor of Science in Mental Health) and British Columbia (Advanced Diploma and Bachelor of Health Sciences – Psychiatric Nursing).

Douglas College, based in New Westminster, B.C. will be offering a Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing degree program beginning September 2006. Other degree program proposals have been or are being developed in Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan. In the ongoing development of the profession, the movement towards degree preparation ensures that RPNs are well positioned to respond to the changing needs and demands of the work environment and are fully prepared for expanded roles in the delivery of health services.

With their specific education and experience, RPNs are skilled in assessment; planning programs; and implementing and evaluating the effectiveness of the plans and programs. All processes maximize client/patient involvement.

Many RPNs provide crisis and treatment intervention on a daily basis. They must possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills to be effective in the application of their therapeutic skills.



" I am an RPN because I know that at any time, anyone can suffer from a mental illness, and because these are the illnesses that are least understood or accepted, I want to be there to help them deal with their problems in life in a more effective manner."

RPNs work in full partnership with psychiatrists, psychologists, other nurses, occupational therapists, social workers, pharmacists, managers, community agencies, law enforcement professionals and social service providers.



Careers for Today's Registered Psychiatric Nurses

- Acute care hospitals and clinics
- Child and adolescent treatment programs
- Long term psychiatric facilities
- Crisis teams and suicide prevention programs
- Substance abuse/addiction programs
- Long-term geriatric and home care
- Residential and community programs for persons with developmental challenges
- Community mental health programs
- Corrections – institutional & community
- Palliative Care
- Forensic psychiatry
- Private practice, family therapy and counselling
- Social services, child services, youth centres
- School mental health programs
- Community outreach
- Education programs

