



Scope of Practice for RPN(AP)s

*Adapted with the permission from the
College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba (CRNM)

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Purpose

The regulations that transition the Registered Psychiatric Nurse (RPN) profession to regulation under The Regulated Health Professions Act (the “RHPA”) comes into force on June 1, 2022.

Persons who practice registered psychiatric nursing are regulated under The Regulated Health Professions Act, the Practice of Registered Psychiatric Nursing Regulation (the “Practice Regulation”), the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba General Regulation (the “General Regulation”) and the CRPNM’s by-laws and practice directions. An RPN may engage in the practice of registered psychiatric nursing only if the member is legally permitted, competent and fit to do so. An RPN must acknowledge their limitations in skill, knowledge and judgment and must ensure that they practice registered psychiatric nursing within those limitations.

The Practice Regulation includes provisions for the CRPNM to continue operating under the RHPA, transitions members of the profession to regulation by the college under the RHPA and sets out the scope of practice of the registered psychiatric nursing profession in Manitoba. The Practice Regulation also sets out the reserved acts that members of the profession are authorized to perform subject to terms and conditions set out in the proposed General Regulation. The General Regulation defines the registration classes, membership requirements, continuing competency requirements, and standards of practice of the psychiatric nursing profession in Manitoba. The General Regulation also sets out which reserved acts may be performed by an RPN of a membership class and under what conditions. This Regulation includes the rules for delegating the performance of reserved acts to others and the supervision of students.

The purpose of this document is to provide information about the scope of practice for registered psychiatric nurse (authorized prescriber)s or RPN(AP)s. The information in this document is subject to change as College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba (the College) policy is revised or legislation is amended. Where necessary, additional scope of practice information is included in the College’s practice directions.

Scope of Practice of the RPN(AP) in Manitoba

Legal authority for RPN(AP) practice is found in the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba General Regulation. Scope of Practice refers to the range of activities that RPN(AP)s are both educated and authorized to perform. RPN practice forms the foundation for RPN(AP) scope of practice. All of the reserved acts that are within the legislated scope of practice for the RPN profession are also in the legislated scope of practice for the RPN(AP). Please refer to RPN scope of practice for a listing of these reserved acts.

The RPN(AP) adds to their scope of practice through the application of knowledge, skill and judgment in authorized prescriber practice in one or more of the following areas: reproductive health, sexually transmitted infections and blood borne pathogens; or diabetes health.

Limits

RPN(AP)s with an approved client population for diabetes health may practise as needed only in:

1. collaboration with a physician, RN(NP), RN (AP) or RPN (AP); or
2. an approved practice setting.

Reserved acts are those clinical activities listed in the RHPA. They are clinical activities done in the course of providing health care that are to be limited to certain regulated health professions and members of those professions who are qualified and competent to perform them because they present a significant risk of harm to the public when performed incompetently. Each reserved act can be performed by more than one category of health-care provider as determined by that health-care profession's regulations.

RPN(AP)s may perform the same reserved acts as RPNs plus three additional reserved acts:

- prescribing drugs or vaccines listed in the schedule (Appendix B);
- ordering and receiving screening or diagnostic tests listed in the schedule (Appendix A); and
- making a diagnosis that is appropriate to one's practice as an RPN(AP).

Practice Expectations and Employer Policies

A practice expectation is the expected level of performance against which actual performance is compared. In addition to standards of practice, RPN(AP)s must meet all applicable practice expectations contained in practice directions. RPN(AP) practice is rooted in RPN practice, so it is essential to:

- meet the practice direction Practice Expectations for RPNs and any applicable practice directions;
- apply the requisite knowledge, skill and judgment to competently perform any act or service as part of RPN practice;
- acknowledge any of their limitations in knowledge, skill and judgment;
- function within their practice limitations; and
- only perform a practice if it is both safe and appropriate for the practice to be provided.

Employer policies also provide further direction for RPN(AP) practice in the facility or region which the RN(AP) works. Employer policies are expected to be consistent with the RHPA, regulations, bylaws, standards of practice, Code of Ethics and practice directions. Each RPN(AP) is expected to follow practice directions and employer policies.

Initiating a Reserved Act

Before deciding to initiate a reserved act, the RPN(AP) must determine whether the client's condition warrants the performance of the reserved act.

The RPN(AP) scope of practice is more than a set of reserved acts.

Reserved Acts

The following describes reserved acts for RPN(AP)s as set out in the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba General Regulation. Because the reserved acts for RPNs are included in the scope of practice for RPN(AP)s, it is necessary to refer to the Scope of Practice for RPNs for these additional reserved acts.

Reserved Act 1: Diagnosis

A registered psychiatric nurse (authorized prescriber) may make a diagnosis that is appropriate to the member's practice as a registered psychiatric nurse (authorized prescriber) and communicate it to an individual or the individual's personal representative in circumstances in which it is reasonably foreseeable that the individual or representative will rely on the diagnosis to make a decision about the individual's health care.

With the education and clinical practice that the RPN(AP) completed to obtain the authorized prescriber notation, the individual competence of the RPN(AP) broadens the diagnoses that can be made in the practice areas of reproductive health and sexually transmitted infections and blood borne pathogens and/or diabetes health. The availability of diagnostic tools and clinical knowledge in the interpretation of assessment data both impact the diagnoses that an RPN(AP) can skillfully make. This reserved act is only completed when the RPN(AP) communicates the diagnosis to the individual client (or their personal representative). Communicating a diagnosis provides a basis from which the individual (or their representative) decides on goals of care and continues to work toward achieving their health-care goals.

Limits and Criteria

To competently and safely make a diagnosis according to this reserved act, the RPN(AP) must:

- a. use diagnostic reasoning skills to generate diagnosis; and
- b. meet all other practice expectations and applicable practice directions.

Reserved Act 2: Order or receive screening or diagnostic tests

(A registered psychiatric nurse (authorized prescriber) may order or receive reports of screening or diagnostic tests listed in the Schedule. (Appendix B).

Limits and Criteria

To competently and safely perform the ordering or receiving of reports of screening or diagnostic tests, the RPN(AP) must:

- a. consider evidence-informed practice to determine the appropriateness, contraindications, safety and cost-effectiveness of screening and diagnostic tests as well as relevant provincial and federal legislation and standards;
- b. establish efficient and safe processes for response to critical screening and diagnostic test results including any necessary collaboration with other health-care providers;
- c. maintain accurate information about their current employer and work contact information in their CRPNM profile to inform other relevant health-care partners (e.g. Diagnostic Services Manitoba); and
- d. meet all other practice expectations and applicable practice directions.

Reserved Act 6: Prescribing a drug or vaccine

A registered psychiatric nurse (authorized prescriber) may

(a) prescribe a drug or vaccine listed in the Schedule; or

(b) prescribe a drug or vaccine belonging to a category listed in the Schedule. (Appendix A).

The regulations stipulate that the RPN(AP) may prescribe specific devices necessary for their client population as listed in Appendix C.

Limits and Criteria

To competently and safely prescribe a drug or vaccine listed in the schedule or a device listed in the legislation, the RPN(AP) must:

- a. prescribe only those medications, devices and vaccines listed in the regulations; and
- b. meet all other practice expectations and applicable practice directions.

Reserved Act 10: Order a renal ultrasound

A registered psychiatric nurse (authorized prescriber) may order the application of renal ultrasound for diagnostic or imaging purposes.

Limits and Criteria

To competently and safely order a renal ultrasound for diagnostic and imaging purposes, the RPN(AP) must:

- a. consider evidence-informed practice to determine the appropriateness, contraindications, safety and cost-effectiveness of screening and diagnostic tests as well as relevant provincial and federal legislation and standards;
- b. establish efficient and safe processes for response to critical screening and diagnostic test results including any necessary collaboration with other health-care providers;
- c. maintain accurate information about their current employer and work contact information in their CRPNM profile to inform other relevant health-care partners (e.g. Diagnostic Services Manitoba); and
- d. meet all other practice expectations and applicable practice directions.

APPENDIX A

Ordering or receiving reports

For the purpose of performing a reserved act, a registered psychiatric nurse (authorized prescriber) may order or receive reports of the following screening or diagnostic tests for the registered psychiatric nurse's approved patient population:

Reproductive Health, Sexually Transmitted Infections and Blood Borne Pathogens

Bacterial Vaginosis

Clinical Microbiology

- Swab for microscopy

Candidiasis

Clinical Microbiology

- Swab for culture and microscopy

Chlamydia

Clinical Microbiology

- Urine for *Chlamydia trachomatis* nucleic acid test
- Genital swab for *Chlamydia trachomatis* nucleic acid test
- Rectal, eye or throat swab for direct fluorescent antibody microscopy
- Aptima STI Testing Portfolio

Gonorrhea

- Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Bacteriology
- Urine for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* nucleic acid test
- Genital swab for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* nucleic acid test
- Genital swab for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* culture
- Rectal, eye or throat swab for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* culture

Hepatitis B

Serology

- Hepatitis B surface antigen
- Hepatitis B surface antibodies
- Hepatitis B core antibodies

Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV)

Virus Detection

- Swab for HSV nucleic acid testing

Syphilis

Serology

- Blood or serum
- Clinical Microbiology
- Swab for *Treponema pallidum* (PCR)

Treatment of Genital Warts

- Human papillomavirus nucleic acid testing

Trichomonas

Clinical Microbiology

- Vaginal swab for fixed stain microscopy culture
- Vaginal swab for Trichomonas vaginalis antigen
- Vaginal swab for Trichomonas vaginalis nucleic acid test

Other Diagnostics for Sexual and Reproductive Health

Clinical Biochemistry and Genetics

- Pregnancy test (serum and urine)

Serology

- Hepatitis A immunoglobulin G antibodies
- Hepatitis A immunoglobulin M antibodies
- Hepatitis C virus antibodies
- HIV antibodies
- Cervical cancer screening and Pap testing
- Human papillomavirus nucleic acid testing

Diabetes Health

Biochemistry

- Albumin-to-Creatinine Ratio (ACR) — (urine)
- Apolipoprotein B — (serum)
- Cholesterol, low density lipoprotein (calculated) — (plasma)
- Cholesterol, total — (plasma)
- Cholesterol, high density lipoprotein — (plasma)
- Creatinine — (serum)
- Estimated glomerular filtration rate — (plasma)
- Glucose — (plasma)
- Glucose tolerance test, 2 hour — (plasma)
- Glucose tolerance test, 75 g — (plasma)
- Glycosylated hemoglobin — A1C (blood)
- Potassium — (serum)
- Sodium — (serum)
- Triglycerides — (plasma)
- Urinalysis, complete — (urine)

APPENDIX B

Prescribing drugs and vaccines

For the purpose of performing reserved act 6, a registered psychiatric nurse (authorized prescriber) may prescribe the following drugs or vaccines for the registered psychiatric nurse's approved patient population:

Reproductive Health, Sexually Transmitted Infections and Blood Borne Pathogens

Drugs for Reproductive Health

- Oral Combined Estrogen and Progestin
- Oral Progestin only pills
- Depo-Provera Medroxyprogesterone Acetate
- Transdermal Combined Estrogen and Progestin Monophasic patch
- Hepatitis A vaccine
- Human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV)
- Topical estrogen or estradiol cream

Emergency Medication for Anaphylaxis Management

- Injectable epinephrine
- Injectable diphenhydramine

Hepatitis B Post-Exposure Management

- Hepatitis B vaccine
- Hepatitis immune globulin

Treatment of Genital Warts

- Imiquimod
- Liquid nitrogen
- Podophyllin
- Trichloroacetic acid (TCA)

Diabetes Health

Combined formulations

- Metformin and Sitagliptin
- Metformin and Sitagliptin modified release
- Metformin and Linagliptin
- Metformin and Saxagliptin
- Metformin and Empagliflozin
- Metformin and Dapagliflozin

Antihyperglycemic Agents

- Thiazolidinediones (TZD)
- Biguanides
- Incretin agents
- GLP-1 receptor agonists
- SGLT2 inhibitors
- Insulin secretagogues
- Alpha-glucosidase inhibitors (AGI)

Cardiac/Renal

- Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors
- Angiotensin II receptor blockers (ARB)

- Statins
- Fibrates
- Insulin
- Bolus (prandial) insulins
- Basal insulins
- Premixed insulins

Other

- Glucagon kit
- Glucose tablets

Reproductive Health, Sexually Transmitted Infections and Blood Borne Pathogens

Bacterial Vaginosis

- Nitroimidazoles
- Lincomycins
- Lincosamides

Chlamydia Trachomatis

- Macrolides
- Tetracyclines
- Cephalosporins
- Beta Lactam

Drugs for Reproductive Health

- Intrauterine devices
- Intrauterine systems
- Vaginal rings
- Emergency contraceptives

Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV)

- Antivirals

HIV Post Exposure Management

- Antiretrovirals

Neisseria Gonorrhoea

- Cephalosporins
- Tetracyclines
- Macrolides

Syphilis

- Beta Lactams
- Tetracyclines

Trichomoniasis

- Nitroimidazoles
- Lincomycins
- Lincosamides

APPENDIX C

Devices the RPN(AP) may prescribe:

Diabetes population

- glucometers
- glucose test strips
- lancets
- lancing pen devices
- lancing pen needles
- insulin syringes
- urine ketone strips

Reproductive health, sexually transmitted infections and blood borne pathogens population

- diaphragms

Glossary

Approved practice settings: a health care facility operated by the government or other organization listed in the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba General Regulation.

Order: an instruction or authorization for a specific client that is given to a member to perform a reserved act by a:

- RPN (authorized prescriber, RPN (AP)
- RN (nurse practitioner), RN(NP);
- RN (authorized prescriber), RN(AP);
- physician; or
- any other person who engages in health care as a practising member of a health profession regulated under the Act or a profession-specific Act listed in Schedule 2 of the Act, who is legally permitted and competent to give the order.

Practice Direction: may be used to enhance, explain, add to, or guide members with respect to the content described in the standards of practice or other matters not dealt with in the standards which are relevant to the practice of the profession. These also carry the force of regulations.

RPN (authorized prescriber): an RPN who holds a valid certificate of practice with the notation (authorized prescriber).

Reserved acts: are activities that are deemed to be a risk to the public if not performed safely and competently by health professionals. The health professional must have the appropriate knowledge, competence and skills necessary to perform the act safely. There are 21 categories of reserved acts, including such activities as ordering screening and diagnostic tests, making a diagnosis and prescribing/dispensing/administering drugs, among others.

REFERENCES

College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba. (2018). Scope of Practice for RN (AP)s. Winnipeg, MB: Author

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