

Practice Directive

Telehealth Nursing Practice

College of Registered Nurses of Prince
Edward Island

December 2019



Approved by Council, December 6, 2019

Introduction

Telehealth is defined as the delivery of health care services via the telephone, computer, or by other technological means. The number of registered nurses and nurse practitioners in Canada working in telehealth practice is increasing. The College of Registered Nurses of Prince Edward Island (CRNPEI) receives regular enquiries regarding telehealth practice and the nurse's roles and responsibilities related to telehealth nursing practice.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide direction to nurses and nursing administrators who are considering telehealth nursing practice or have questions about jurisdiction.

Providing Telehealth to a resident of Prince Edward Island

To provide telehealth services to a resident of Prince Edward Island, the Registered Nurse or Nurse Practitioner **must be registered with CRNPEI**. In the Regulated Health Professions Act (2013), subsection 2(3), it is stated that “no person shall practice the regulated health profession except as a member of the college for the regulated health profession”.

Regulatory Requirements

When registered with CRNPEI to provide telehealth services in PEI, the RN or NP must adhere to all statutes and regulations, practice standards, codes of ethics, and bylaws that govern nursing practice in PEI. If an RN or NP is registered in multiple jurisdictions, they are responsible to adhere to the requirements in each of those jurisdictions for the practice in the jurisdiction. For example, anyone registered in PEI must complete jurisprudence and the continuing competence program in PEI.

How is nursing defined in Prince Edward Island?

In the Registered Nurses Regulations (2018) nursing is defined as “the health profession in which a person applies specialized and evidence-based knowledge of nursing theory and health and human sciences, skills and judgment in providing professional services to another person, including

- (i) the promotion, maintenance and restoration of health, and
- (ii) the prevention, treatment and palliation of illness and injury, primarily by
 - (A) assessing health status,
 - (B) planning, implementing and evaluating interventions, and
 - (C) coordinating health services, and
- (iii) the research, education, management or administrative activities incidental to performing the services referred to in subclauses (i) and (ii).

Providing telehealth services to a resident of another province or territory

Each province and territory in Canada are governed by their own legislation. An RN or NP must contact the regulatory body of the province or territory where they wish to provide telehealth services before providing such services to residents.