

# Responsibility for Clinical Practice: Standards for Nurse Practitioners

*(Not in effect until approved)*

## Purpose

This standard ensures that nurse practitioners (NPs) are accountable for their clinical practice, uphold CRNA standards and maintain continuity of care for patients. It outlines their responsibilities in managing clinical and administrative tasks, supervising staff and ensuring compliance with legal and professional requirements. In settings without a Clinic Director, an NP must act as the main contact for the CRNA unless alternative governance applies.

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## Criteria

To meet this standard, NPs must:

- 1.** Direct and take responsibility for their clinical practice including:
    - 1.1.** Providing comprehensive care, including assessment, diagnosis, treatment, patient advice and specialist referrals.
    - 1.2.** Ensure continuity of care by arranging appropriate coverage to patients.
  - 2.** Direct, oversee and maintain overall accountability of the following, unless otherwise assigned to a Clinic or Medical Director:
    - 2.1.** Delegation of tasks to qualified staff.
    - 2.2.** Supervise non-regulated staff, defining their roles, verifying qualifications and monitoring performance.
    - 2.3.** Verify licensure of regulated staff with their respective Alberta regulatory colleges and promote effective team collaboration.
    - 2.4.** Oversee billing for publicly funded health services, uninsured services and sale of products.
    - 2.5.** Develop advertising and promotional materials in compliance with the CRNA standard for advertising.
    - 2.6.** Implement quality assurance and improvement measures, including infection prevention and control protocols.
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- 2.7. Custody of patient health records including maintenance and storage.
3. Clearly display each staff member's name, job title and professional designation (if regulated) through visible identifiers such as name tags.
4. In settings with multiple NPs but no designated Clinic Director, one NP must act as the main point of contact for the CRNA. This does not apply to an NP working in a government or health authority operated setting.
5. Obtain and maintain professional liability insurance.

## Glossary

**CLINIC DIRECTOR** – A Clinic Director is an NP responsible for clinical oversight and compliance with laws, regulations and professional standards. The Clinic Director ensures the clinic's administrative procedures support high quality care. In multiple NP settings, they collaborate with other health-care providers to maintain quality of care and effective clinic administration.

## Acknowledgements

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