



**RN & RPN PRACTICE: THE CLIENT, THE NURSE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**  
*College of Nurses of Ontario (2014)*

## **MODULE 02 | LEGISLATION**

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**The goal of Module Two is to help you enhance your nursing knowledge and expertise about Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA, 1991) and the Nursing Act (1991).<sup>1</sup>**

[http://www.cno.org/globalassets/docs/prac/41064\\_fsnursingact.pdf](http://www.cno.org/globalassets/docs/prac/41064_fsnursingact.pdf)

[http://www.cno.org/globalassets/docs/policy/41052\\_rhpascope.pdf](http://www.cno.org/globalassets/docs/policy/41052_rhpascope.pdf)

### **Outcomes**

By completing this learning module you will learn the following:

- To increase your understanding of the legislative framework that guides nursing practice; and
- The components of the legislative framework that influences nursing practice;

### **Process**

- Build on your own nursing knowledge, experience and expertise;
- From case studies, matching and true and false questions to help you analyze and self-reflect about RN and RPN Practice: The Client, the Nurse and the Environment;
- From the College of Nurses of Ontario's Professional Standards (2002) and Guidelines;
- By applying what you have learned to your professional nursing practice.

**Keep a notebook or journal to document your ideas and answers to the questions in this learning module.**

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cno.org/en/learn-about-standards-guidelines/>

## Building On Your Experience

Registered Practical Nurses (RPNs) and Registered Nurses (RNs) have the knowledge, skills and expertise to assume a leadership role in supporting and enhancing client-centred care across the healthcare continuum experiences and services. Leadership includes implementing, monitoring and evaluating the provision of health services and client care. Ensuring that you as a nurse have an appropriate client assignment is an important part of these responsibilities.

### True and False

1. Controlled acts are activities that are considered to be potentially harmful if they are performed by qualified persons.  
 True  False
2. A profession's legal scope of practice is determined by its scope of practice statement and the controlled acts it has the authority to perform.  
 True  False
3. Having the authority to perform a procedure does not necessarily mean that the individual is competent or that it is appropriate for the individual to perform the procedure.  
 True  False

Answers:

1. False (p. 4 RN and RPN Practice: The Client, the Nurse, the Environment, 2014)
2. True
3. True

## Nursing's Scope of Practice Statement

The scope of practice statement for nursing states:

*"the practice of nursing is the promotion of health and the assessment of, the provision of, care for, and the treatment of health conditions by supportive, preventive, therapeutic, palliative, and rehabilitative means in order to attain or maintain optimal function."*<sup>2</sup>

The scope of practice statement describes in a general way what the profession does and the methods it uses; it refers to the profession as a whole, rather than what an individual can do.

- True  False

Answer: True

## Controlled Acts Authorized to Nursing

Place a check mark beside the following controlled acts<sup>3</sup> that the Nursing Act 1991 authorizes nurses to perform.

- Administering a substance by injection or inhalation
- Performing a prescribed procedure below the dermis or mucous membrane

Putting an instrument, hand or finger:

- a. Beyond the external ear canal
- b. Beyond the point in the nasal passages where they normally narrow
- c. Beyond the opening of the urethra
- d. Beyond the labia majora
- e. Beyond the anal verge
- f. Into an artificial opening in the body
- g. Dispensing a drug

Answers: p.4 RN and RPN Practice: The Client, the Nurse, the Environment, 2014)

### Imagine

Practice is so broad and varied that no one nurse is expected to be competent to carry out all the activities within the legal scope of practice; hence, the notion of “full scope of practice” is unlikely.

As a nurse, what controlled acts have you been expected to perform in your current role?

Do you have the knowledge, skill and judgment to perform all of the controlled acts authorized to nursing?

- If not, what do you think you need to do to obtain this competency?
- Who should you involve in your practice environment to support you acquiring this competency?
- What actions should you take?
- How do you know you are successful?

### Case Scenario

Philip was approached by his team leader and was asked to dispense a medication with which he was unfamiliar to a patient, to whom he was not assigned. The patient was anxious to go home for the weekend on a LOA but his primary nurse was on break and he required medications for the weekend while he was at home.

What are Philip’s nursing responsibilities?

*A worksheet allows you to capture your ideas!*

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.cno.org/globalassets/docs/prac/41064\\_fs nursingact.pdf](http://www.cno.org/globalassets/docs/prac/41064_fs nursingact.pdf)

## Critical- Thinking

1. What guiding principles are you most concerned about in Philip's situation?
2. How does this issue conflict with CNO's Three Factor Framework - Standard of Practice - RN and RPN Practice - the Client, the Nurse and the Environment? Which Standards?
3. What practice setting or unit policies/procedures does Philip have the potential in not meeting in this situation?
4. Who else is potentially affected by this request?
5. How could Philip resolve this issue or problem? If he is not able to, who could/should he approach?
6. What resources might give direction to resolve the issue/problem?