



SEIU HEALTHCARE

The Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA, 1994)

MODULE 01 | INTRODUCTION: MY CONNECTION TO THE RHPA

Prepared by: Donna Rothwell, RN, BScN, MN Wharton Fellow

February 17, 2017 Revised March 28, 2017

Goal:

The goal of this learning module is to help you enhance your nursing knowledge and expertise about a fundamental piece of legislation essential to RN and RPN professional nursing practice – the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA, 1994).

What Will I Learn?

By completing these eLearning modules you will learn the following:

- To assist your colleagues, employer, and others make effective decisions about the utilization of your role as a nurse in the provision of safe, competent and ethical client care as espoused by the legislative requirements outlined in the RHPA (1994).
- To understand the historical context of the RHPA (1994) and its relevance to nursing.
- To understand the scope of practice statement, its relevance and Nursing's Scope of Practice Statement.
- To clearly outline controlled acts authorized to nursing as determined by the RHPA (1994).
- To highlight nurses' authorization to perform controlled acts and its application to nursing practice.
- To identify key accountabilities and responsibilities by practicing in accordance with the RHPA (1994) legislation and College of Nurses of Ontario standards.

How Will I Learn?

- 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 the RHPA (1994).
- 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.

Understanding Self-Regulation in Nursing

The Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA, 1994) has been in the making since 1982, when the Health Professions Legislation Review Committee was formed. First Reading of the RHPA was given to the Ontario Legislature on April 2, 1991 by then Health Minister Evelyn Gigantes. A similar Act was introduced in 1990 by then Health Minister Elinor Caplan, but the subsequent provincial election stopped the “Regulated Health Professions Act” (RHPA, 1994) from proceeding.

Following first and second readings of the RHPA it was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Development for public hearings, clause-by-clause examination, and amendment. The College of Nurses of Ontario made two submissions to the Standing Committee on Social Development. The RHPA replaces eight pieces of legislation that govern eighteen professions. It replaced the Health Disciplines Act and became law December 31, 1993.

History of the RHPA (1994)

Match the following:

1) Health Disciplines Act

A) December 31, 1993

2) Health Professions Legislation Review Committee

B) True

3) The RHPA Became law

C) April 2, 1991

4) First Reading of the RHPA

D) Law before the Regulated Health Professions Act

Answers:

1B,2D,3A,4C

Reflection

Why is it important for nurses to understand legislation to guide their nursing practice? Why is self-regulation a privilege in nursing and not a right?

- Why are these questions important to nursing?
- Who should understand the relevance of these questions?
- How would you share your thoughts about this with your nursing colleagues?

Case Scenario

As a recent preceptor on your nursing unit, a nursing student tells you she is not at all interested in attending post conference today as the topic being discussed is about the Regulated Health Professions Act.

She informs her colleagues that this lecture is not important to nursing and why should they bother to attend post conference given all the assignments they need to complete for this semester.

The nursing student seeks your advice. What would you explain to him/her about the relevance the RHPA has for nursing?

1. What guiding principles are you most concerned about?

2. How does this issue conflict with CNO's Standard of Practice? Which Standards?

3. Who else is potentially affected by this decision?

4. How could you resolve this issue or problem? If you are not able to, who would you go to?

5. What resources might give direction to resolve the issue/problem?