



SEIU HEALTHCARE

MODULE 02 | LEGISLATION

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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 this eLearning module you will learn the following:

- To increase your level of understanding as to the rationale for the implementation of the RHPA (1991)
- To increase your understanding of the legislative framework that guides nursing practice; and
- The components of the legislative framework that influences nursing practice;

How Will I Learn?

- Build on your own nursing knowledge, experience and expertise;
- From matching and true and false questions to help you analyze and self-reflect about the legislation that impacts nursing practice;
- 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.

Building On Your Experience

When the review of the health professions legislation began in 1982, there was pressure from various stakeholders to change the existing regulatory legislation, The Health Disciplines Act. Members of the public were expressing doubts about the openness and responsiveness of governing bodies. There was a move towards a more interdisciplinary approach to health care and therefore a need for regulatory system that allowed the consumer a greater freedom of access to information around all regulated health care providers.

Several unregulated health care groups were pressuring the Ministry of Health to become regulated. Health professions regulated by outdated statutes were seeking to be regulated under the Health Disciplines Act. Health care administrators were expressing a sense of frustration with the rigidity that the existing regulatory system imposed on their ability to employ the most efficient and cost-effective mix of health care providers.

Finally, it was recognized within government itself that the existing legislation made policy direction coordination difficult to achieve for the health care professionals.

True or False

The Regulated Health Professions Act is intended to:

1. Protect nursing interest.
 True False
2. Recognize professional provider autonomy.
 True False
3. Ensure professional competence is achieved and maintained.
 True False

Answers:

1. False, 2. True, 3. True

History of the RHPA (1991): When Did It Happen?

Match the following:

What Occurred?

1) Initiated in _____ - Health Professions
Legislation Review Committee

2) First Reading of the RHPA

3) Health Disciplines Act

4) RHPA Became Law

What Year Did it Happen?

A) April 2, 1991

B) 1982

C) December 31, 1993

D) The RHPA (1991) replaced this

Answers:

1B, 2A, 3D, 4C

Why was the RHPA Implemented?

When the review of the health professions legislation began in 1982, there was pressure from various stakeholders to change the existing regulatory legislation, The Health Disciplines Act. Members of the public were expressing doubts about the openness and responsiveness of governing bodies. There was a move towards a more interdisciplinary approach to health care and therefore a need for regulatory system that allowed the consumer a greater freedom of choice.

Several unregulated health care groups were pressuring the Ministry of Health to become regulated. Health professions regulated by outdated statutes were seeking to be regulated under the Health Disciplines Act. Health care administrators were expressing a sense of frustration with the rigidity that the existing regulatory system imposed on their ability to employ the most efficient and cost-effective mix of health care providers.

Finally, it was recognized within government itself that the existing legislation made policy direction coordination difficult to achieve for the health care professionals.

Presently, increasing health care costs with less financial resources existing in health care today, places new demands on a system for change. This means that with this financial crisis a new system needed to be created so that alternatives to health care delivery could be pursued.

The overall purpose of the RHPA (1994) is to unite twenty-three professional groups into a self-regulating framework to achieve the following:

1. Protect the public interest
2. Recognize professional provider autonomy
3. Ensure professional competence is achieved and maintained, and
4. All professionals contribute towards health care.

RHPA - Why The Change?

True or False - Are these changes True or False?

1. Increase openness & responsiveness of health care system
 True False
2. Provider freedom of choice
 True False
3. Greater public participation in regulation of health care professions
 True False
4. Recognize client autonomy
 True False
5. Improve government's ability to coordinate health care policy
 True False
6. Self-regulating framework to protect providers
 True False
7. Flexibility in care delivery cost-effective skill mix
 True False

Answers:

1. True, 2. False, 3. True, 4. False, 5. True, 6. False, 7. True

Case Scenario

The medical surgical team that you are working with has implemented bullet rounds to facilitate discharge planning for efficient patient flow. All members of the interprofessional health care team are expected to participate.

During the bullet rounds, the Physiotherapist indicates that your patient will continue to need physiotherapy but could do this as an outpatient. You disagree as your patient is elderly with little family support and knows transportation for her will be an issue.

What are your nursing responsibilities and accountabilities?

1. What are you most concerned about?

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

3. What practice setting or unit policies/procedures are you unable to meet in this situation?

4. Who else is potentially affected by this request?

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

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