

# BCCNP

British Columbia  
College of Nursing  
Professionals



## IMPORTANT

As of Sept. 4, 2018, the following nursing colleges amalgamated to become the British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals (BCCNP):

- College of Licensed Practical Nurses of British Columbia (CLPNBC)
- College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia (CRNBC)
- College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of British Columbia (CRPNBC)

Although the information in the document you are about to access reflects our most current information about this topic, you'll notice the content refers to the previous nursing college that published this document prior to Sept. 4, 2018.

We appreciate your patience while we work towards updating all of our documents to reflect our new name and brand.

# RPN Appropriate Use of Title

## Practice Standard

May 2013, Revised September 29, 2017

*Practice Standards set out baseline requirements for specific aspects of Registered Psychiatric Nurses' practice. They interact with other requirements such as the BCCNP RPN Code of Ethics, all the BCCNP RPN standards of practice, the BCCNP bylaws and relevant legislation.*

Protecting the public is a key purpose for regulating health professionals. One aspect of regulation is reserving professional titles to ensure they are used appropriately. Only individuals who have met the requirements for registration and, once registered, continue to meet the requirements for renewal, may use a reserved title. Individuals who do not meet the requirements are not permitted to use a reserved title. This legal restriction assures the public that anyone using one of the reserved nursing titles is entitled to practise nursing in British Columbia.

The *Nurses (Registered Psychiatric) Regulation* includes three reserved titles:

- Registered Psychiatric Nurse
- Psychiatric Nurse
- Nurse.

BCCNP Bylaws identify each class of registrant within the College and the titles each may use. This Practice Standard includes a table showing a breakdown of the classes of registration and their associated titles.

### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Individuals within each class of registrant only use the title(s) assigned to them.
2. Registrants use their title(s) in ways that comply with the:
  - a. *Health Professions Act*
  - b. *Nurses (Registered Psychiatric) Regulation*
  - c. BCCNP Bylaws
  - d. BCCNP RPN standards of practice.
3. When registrants document care or services provided to a client, they specify in a clear and legible manner, their:
  - a. Name
  - b. Title that most specifically reflects their class of registration.

4. Students who are enrolled in a psychiatric nursing education program recognized by BCCNP and who are employed as a student psychiatric nurse in a health care setting use the title “employed student psychiatric nurse” or ESPN when documenting or providing care or services to a client.
5. Students enrolled in a psychiatric nursing education program recognized by BCCNP and not employed as an ESPN use the title “student psychiatric nurse” or SPsycN when documenting or providing care or services to a client.

### **APPLYING THE PRINCIPLES TO PRACTICE**

- a. As a registrant you may use your psychiatric nursing title to describe yourself, but you are only practising psychiatric nursing if what you are doing falls within the definition set out in the *Nurses (Registered Psychiatric) Regulation*.
- b. What you do within the scope of an RPN is reflected when you write RPN as opposed to another designation. Use the most accurate and descriptive title for your class of registrant (e.g., RPN, not nurse) in documenting client care and services.
- c. If you are working in a role that you are unclear is within the scope of psychiatric nursing (e.g., foot care or esthetic nursing), consult with a BCCNP Practice Consultant about using your title.
- d. Be aware that your title (e.g., RPN) is granted annually by BCCNP and comes with restrictions on its use. In contrast, you earned your academic credential (e.g., BSPN) and there are no restrictions on its use.
- e. If you are registered as a psychiatric nurse in another province or country, but not in B.C., you can only use your title in the context of where you are actually registered (e.g., I am an RPN in Alberta). Do not imply you are registered in B.C. or able to practise in B.C.
- f. Each class of BCCNP RPN registrant has specific restrictions on practice. Restrictions are set out in BCCNP Bylaws, standards and policies.
- g. While a former registrant can still use their academic qualification, they cannot use a reserved title.
- h. Ensure that you only use the title “employed student psychiatric nurse” when working in that role. Use “student psychiatric nurse” in your student role.

The table below shows how the reserved titles of Registered Psychiatric Nurse and nurse may be used and includes other titles used to describe alternative categories of practice:

<b>BCCNP Class of Registrant</b>	<b>Titles Registrant May Use</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Practicing registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Registered Psychiatric Nurse (RPN)</li> <li>▪ Psychiatric Nurse</li> <li>▪ Nurse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recommended title: RPN</li> <li>▪ Registrants are actively engaged in providing the services of the profession of psychiatric nursing specified in the Regulation</li> <li>▪ Under the <i>Health Professions Act</i>, Licensed Practical Nurses and Registered Nurses can also use the generic title nurse</li> <li>▪ Always use title Registered Psychiatric Nurse or RPN when documenting care</li> </ul>
Non-practicing registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Non-practicing Registered Psychiatric Nurse (Non-practicing RPN)</li> <li>▪ Non-practicing psychiatric nurse</li> <li>▪ Non-practicing nurse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recommended title: Non-practicing RPN</li> <li>▪ Registrants have qualified for registration but are not providing the services of the profession of psychiatric nursing specified in the regulation</li> <li>▪ Registrants only use these titles if they previously qualified as an RPN</li> </ul>
Interim registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Psychiatric Nurse (PsyncN)</li> <li>▪ Nurse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recommended title: PsyncN</li> <li>▪ Registrants granted registration subject to certain terms and/or conditions</li> </ul>
Employed Student registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employed student psychiatric nurse (ESPN)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recommended title: ESPN</li> </ul>
<b>Non-Registrant</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Student Psychiatric Nurse (SPsyncN)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recommended title: SPsyncN</li> <li>▪ Students must be registered in a psychiatric nursing education program recognized by BCCNP in order to use this title</li> <li>▪ Students may add the name of the educational institution to SPsyncN</li> </ul>

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

BCCNP RPN's Professional Standards, Practice Standards, and Scope of Practice for Registered Psychiatric Nurses: Standards, Limits and Conditions set out requirements for practice that registrants must meet. They are available from the Practice Support section of the BCCNP website: <https://www.bccnp.ca/Standards/RPN/Pages/Default.aspx>.

For more information on this or any other practice issue, contact a BCCNP Practice Consultant by email at [practice@bccnp.ca](mailto:practice@bccnp.ca) or call 604.742.6200 or 1.866.880.7101.

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