



**Executive
Council**

*A certified copy of an Order in Council dated
November 18, 2025*

N.S. Reg. 253/2025

FILED

Date: November 18, 2025

**Rachel L. Jones
Registrar of Regulations
Province of Nova Scotia**

2025-338

The Governor in Council on the report and recommendation of the Minister of Health and Wellness dated October 20, 2025, and pursuant to Section 10 of Chapter 8 of the Acts of 2019, the *Nursing Act*, is pleased to approve amendments made by the Board of the Nova Scotia College of Nursing to the *Nursing Regulations*, N.S. Reg. 76/2019, made by the Board of the Nova Scotia College of Nursing and approved by the Governor in Council by Order in Council 2019-158 dated June 4, 2019, to establish the designation of registered psychiatric nurse, in the manner set forth in Schedule "A" attached to and forming part of the Report and Recommendation, effective on and after December 1, 2025.

Certified to be a true copy

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Taweel", written over a horizontal line.

**Tracey Taweel
Clerk of the Executive Council**



Tracey Taweel

Clerk of the Executive Council

Schedule "A"

I hereby certify that the Board of the Nova Scotia College of Nursing, at a duly convened meeting of the Board held on September 25, 2025, and pursuant to Section 10 of Chapter 8 of the Acts of 2019, the *Nursing Act*, resolved to amend the *Nursing Regulations*, N.S. Reg. 76/2019, made by the Board of the Nova Scotia College of Nursing and approved by the Governor in Council by Order in Council 2019-158 dated June 4, 2019, to provide for the creation of the designation of registered psychiatric nurse, in the manner set forth in the attached.

Subject to the approval of the Governor in Council, these amendments are effective on and after December 1, 2025.

Signed at Halifax Nova Scotia on September 26, 2025.

Board of the Nova Scotia College of Nursing



Per: Douglas Bungay
CEO and Registrar

**Amendment to the *Nursing Regulations*
made by the Board of the Nova Scotia College of Nursing under Section 10
of Chapter 8 of the Acts of 2019,
the *Nursing Act***

- 1 Section 2 of the *Nursing Regulations*, N.S. Reg. 76/2019, made by the Board of the Nova Scotia College of Nursing and approved by the Governor in Council by Order in Council 2019-158 dated June 4, 2019, is amended by adding the following definitions where they belong in alphabetical order:

“Act” means the *Nursing Act*;

“registered psychiatric nurse” means a member of the nursing profession qualified to use the designation “registered psychiatric nurse”;

- 2 The regulations are further amended by adding the following heading and Sections immediately after Section 30:

Registered Psychiatric Nurses

Registered psychiatric nurse designation

- 31** The designation of registered psychiatric nurse is added as a designation that is regulated under the Act.

Scope of practice for registered psychiatric nurses

- 32** The scope of practice for a registered psychiatric nurse includes the provision of nursing services to plan, implement and evaluate mental, psychosocial and physical health care by applying psychiatric nursing knowledge, skills and judgment that meet at least 1 of the following criteria:

- (a) they are taught in a registered psychiatric nursing education program approved by a nursing regulator in Canada;
- (b) they are set out in entry-level competencies or standards of practice approved by the Board;
- (c) they are set out in practice guidelines approved by the CEO.

Categories of licensing for registered psychiatric nurse

- 33** The following are the categories of licence for a registered psychiatric nurse:

- (a) registered psychiatric nurse practising licence;

- (b) registered psychiatric nurse conditional licence.

Records for registered psychiatric nurses

- 34** The categories of licence set out in Section 33 are added to the list of licence categories for which the Chief Executive Officer must keep separate records under Section 15 of the Act.

Registers for psychiatric nurses

- 35** The following are prescribed as registers to be kept by the Chief Executive Officer under Section 14 of the Act:

- (a) registered psychiatric nurse register;
- (b) registered psychiatric nurse conditional register.

Restriction on use of titles

- 36** No person may engage in the practice of a registered psychiatric nurse or take or use the designation “Registered Psychiatric Nurse” or “RPN”, or any derivation or abbreviation of those either alone or in combination with other words, letters or descriptions to imply that the person is registered or licensed under the Act unless the person is 1 of the following:

- (a) a registrant who holds either
 - (i) a registered psychiatric nurse practising licence, or
 - (ii) a registered psychiatric nurse conditional licence;
- (b) a person otherwise authorized to practise as a registered psychiatric nurse or to use the designation, description or title in accordance with this Act, the regulations or the by-laws.