

Bulletin 241210

To: Nova Scotia Regulator of Paramedicine Registrants; NSRoP Website News

Date: December 10, 2024

Re: Continuing-Competence Program

The Nova Scotia Regulator of Paramedicine (“the Regulator”) updated and plans further revisions to its Continuing-Competence Program.

The Regulator’s continuing-competence program gives professional guidance to registrants on how to maintain and enhance their skills, knowledge, and abilities throughout their careers. Its core purpose is to protect the public interest in the practice of paramedicine. Continuing-competence programs:

- Are designed to identify and address gaps in a professional’s knowledge or skills, reducing the risk of errors that could cause public harm.
- Foster a commitment to continuous learning, adapting to new standards, skills, and technologies relevant to the profession, thus allowing the professional to provide up-to-date, high-quality services.
- Encourage personal and professional development, which benefits the professional and the public.
- Reinforce professional accountability to the public and profession.

Current Updates

The changes are designed to support all registrants in their ongoing professional development and include:

- Alignment with the *Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA)* and the new Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) licencing category.
- Framing the continuing-competence program with the practice environment to clarify that the practice environment extends beyond clinical practice to include research, education, inter-professional collaboration, consultation, management, administration, advocacy, regulation, and system development.
- Adjustments to the language within the five (5) learning sections to incorporate all registrants, including EMRs.

Remember, all registrants, including EMRs, are permitted to use their education program (EMR, PCP, etc.) and their preparation to write the entry to practice examination for their continuing-competence program. Individuals graduating after April 1 annually should possess sufficient information to meet the continuing-competence program requirements.

All the information a registrant requires about the continuing-competence program can be found via this hyperlink [NSRoP Continuing-Competence Program Information Guide](#).

Future Updates:

The Board has directed the Regulator's staff to investigate further revisions to the Regulator's continuing-competence program that will focus more on competence than individual competencies.

It will incorporate a reflective practice exercise. This exercise will allow registrants to focus on their continuing-competence development by reflecting upon the standards of practice while integrating the competencies associated with their licence category into their practice environment.

It is expected that an updated continuing-competence program will incorporate a process for registrants to document their:

- Self-assessment exercise against the standards of practice and the registrant's practice environment.
- Professional development plan to establish learning goals based on the self-reflective assessment.
- Reflective practice evaluation against their self-evaluation and professional development plan.

As the Regulator's staff conducts this important work, they consult with registrants and others, so please watch for further communications from the Regulator in the coming months.