

contact the RPNAS to validate that you have in fact successfully completed an approved psychiatric nursing program and successfully completed the RPNAS registration examination.

When should I establish initial registration?

You have four years from your graduation date to successfully complete the registration examination and license with the RPNAS. If you fail to do so, you will be required to take a re-entry program before you will be eligible to write the registration examination.

Upon successful completion of the registration examination you are encouraged to seek employment as a registered psychiatric nurse and establish initial registration and licensure with the RPNAS.

What if I work in a jurisdiction that does not license Registered Psychiatric Nurses and wish to license with the RPNAS upon return to Saskatchewan?

Upon return to Saskatchewan you may apply for licensure with the RPNAS, if you:

- 1) were eligible to license with the RPNAS prior to leaving Saskatchewan,
- 2) provide evidence of your employment record and activities in that jurisdiction during the time period as required by the association,
- 3) provide proof of having worked in psychiatric nursing activities approved by the association for at least 1200 hours in the five year period immediately preceding the date of application for the year in

- which licensure is sought,
and
- 4) provide evidence of good standing in that jurisdiction, if you were registered as another health practitioner.

For how long is my licence valid?

Registered Psychiatric Nurse licensure in Saskatchewan is for a one year period, based on the membership year, which is January 1 - December 31. A pro-rated fee is in effect from July 1 to December 31. The annual licensing fee for subsequent years is payable by December 1 of each year.

How do I obtain RPNAS Standards for Psychiatric Nursing Practice, Psychiatric Nursing Competencies and Code of Ethics?

When you initially register and license with the RPNAS you will receive an informational package containing the Standards for Psychiatric Nursing Practice, Psychiatric Nursing Competencies, Code of Ethics and a RPNAS membership pin.

We look forward to your application for registration.

INITIAL REGISTRATION AS A REGISTERED PSYCHIATRIC NURSE



**REGISTERED
PSYCHIATRIC
NURSES
ASSOCIATION OF
SASKATCHEWAN**

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with government legislation.

What does the term “licensed” mean?

A person has been issued a licence to practise psychiatric nursing, in accordance with the Registered Psychiatric Nurses Act, 1993. The title of “psychiatric nurse”, “registered psychiatric nurse” and “graduate psychiatric nurse” and the abbreviations PN, RPN and GPN are protected titles. Anyone using them in Saskatchewan who is not licensed with the RPNAS is subject to legal action.

What steps do I have to take to become initially “registered” and “licensed” to practise as a registered psychiatric nurse?

The Act and Bylaws of the RPNAS require that you produce satisfactory evidence of the following that:

- you have successfully completed an approved psychiatric nursing education program
- you have passed the registration examination within a four year period following graduation
- you have provided a current criminal record check
- you have complied with the registration bylaws which require that you complete the forms, pay the required fees, and provide the required documentation.

How does the RPNAS “regulate” the practice of psychiatric nursing in Saskatchewan?

By:

- registering members;
- issuing licences;

- approving the psychiatric nursing education program;
- setting standards of practice;
- adopting a code of ethics;
- investigating professional conduct complaints; and
- disciplining its members.

Why do I have a licence to practise psychiatric nursing?

To protect the public from harm by the promotion of safe psychiatric nursing practice within the Act and Bylaws of the RPNAS.

To protect the member through mandatory malpractice insurance and investigation of all professional conduct complaints.

As a graduate from the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS), do I have to license initially in Saskatchewan?

No. However, you must be eligible for licensure with the RPNAS in order to license initially as a registered psychiatric nurse in Manitoba, Alberta or British Columbia. To be eligible in Saskatchewan, you must have:

- 1) successfully completed an approved psychiatric nursing education program and
- 2) successfully completed the RPNAS registration examination.

What benefits accompany my licence to practise psychiatric nursing?

- to enjoy the right to practise psychiatric nursing;
- to use the title “registered psychiatric

- nurse” or “psychiatric nurse”;
- to ensure professional liability protection;
- to participate and be eligible to hold office with the RPNAS;
- to receive the RPNNews; and
- to be eligible for sponsored educational programs, bursaries and scholarships.

What responsibilities accompany my licence to practise psychiatric nursing?

To adhere to the Code of Ethics and to practise competently according to recognized standards.

To maintain Continuing Professional Development (CPD) according to RPNAS requirements.

Can I practise psychiatric nursing outside of Saskatchewan?

The four western provinces, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia have legislation that regulates psychiatric nursing. Your licence in Saskatchewan does not extend beyond the provincial borders. However, if you are eligible to license with the RPNAS you may become licensed as an RPN in the other provinces.

How do I go about establishing registration/licensure in another jurisdiction?

You need to contact the licensing body in that jurisdiction and request the appropriate forms. They will ask you to complete a release of information form allowing them to