

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING FAQ

Q: WHY ARE CONTINUING EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING IMPORTANT?

A: Professional registered nursing practice and the healthcare system are evolving at a significant rate requiring registered nurses, through continuing nursing education, professional development, lifelong learning, and continuing competence programs, to meet regulatory, professional, and employment requirements to expand registered nursing practice.

Change is constant and registered nursing practice has expanded to enable us to be decision-makers, knowledge leaders, and integral members of the healthcare team for quality workplaces and quality outcomes. This has resulted in the expansion of our foundational knowledge, skills, abilities, problem-solving, critical thinking, and judgment. The advancement of registered nursing practice is tied to continual growth in knowledge, skills, abilities, decision-making, and leadership to achieve higher quality, quantity, and appropriateness in clinical practice.

Currency of knowledge, skills, and judgment are fundamental to registered nursing practice. If we aren't current and up-to-date with the latest advances, we risk being left behind. Entry-level registered nursing programs provide the foundation for professional practice. We need to build on this as we progress throughout our professional careers. It allows you to merge information and evidence to have a better work environment, advanced practice, improved quality outcomes and to further expand the depth and breadth of your professional practice.

Continuing education and lifelong learning are a minimum requirement for being and remaining registered nurses. This is a direct result of registered nursing practice being knowledge and practice-based, with a core foundation in learning and professional development that evolves from novice to becoming an expert.

Q: WHAT IS SUN'S POSITION ON CONTINUING EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING?

A: SUN recognizes the importance and requirement for lifelong learning in registered nursing practice as a vital need for safe, competent, ethical, and quality practice. SUN has collectively bargained articles based on your professional practice and requirements to meet them. This includes articles applying to mentorship, preceptorship, orientation, staff development, education leave, and professional development. If you are unfamiliar with these articles and what they mean in your workplace, please review your collective bargaining agreement, and consult with your Local President. Your Local President is your first point of contact for any issues or concerns in your unit or organization.

SUN believes access to continuing nursing education and professional practice development is required to advance registered nursing practice in Saskatchewan. SUN will continue to advocate for safe, competent, ethical, and quality care within the healthcare system.

We recognize that barriers can exist to continuing education and lifelong learning, and are committed to working with members, employers, and other stakeholders to ensure access and availability.

Q: WHO CAN HELP ME IDENTIFY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES, RESOURCES, AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING?

A: SUN Provincial, regulatory bodies, employers, professional nursing, and healthcare organizations have many resources and opportunities available to you. Professional associations like the Canadian Nurses Association or specialty practice organizations can lead you to opportunities to advance your knowledge, skills, and abilities for professional practice.

SUN Provincial has created a [Living, Learning & Growing Your Professional Practice Resource](#) document as a launching point for you to locate organizations, information, and resources to assist you in advancing your knowledge and professional practice.

SUN Provincial Nurse Practice Officers (NPOs) are available to further assist you at your convenience.