

# Empowering Registered Nurse (RN) Prescribers:

## Enhancing Health-Care Access in Newfoundland and Labrador

Spring 2023 - Ongoing

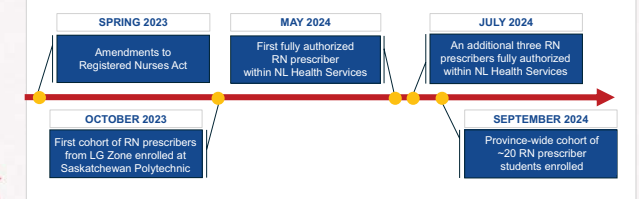
### Introduction

- A Registered Nurse (RN) prescriber refers to an RN who has obtained the required education, authorization, and competence to add RN prescribing to their individual scope of practice by the College of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador (CRNNL) and NL Health Services.
- The RN prescriber is authorized to independently order medications, diagnostic imaging, laboratory tests and non-pharmacological interventions for the management of their selected population of patients as identified by the employer.

### Goals

- By June 2024, implement RN prescriptive authority in at least two program areas within the Labrador-Grenfell Zone, with the goal of improved patient care outcomes as measured by patient satisfaction surveys and health-care metrics.
- By December 2025, increase RN participation in prescribing and patient management roles across Newfoundland and Labrador, enhancing access to health-care services as measured by reduced wait times and increased patient engagement.
- By June 2025, streamline medical processes in three key settings by enabling RNs to prescribe medications, order diagnostic tests, and make referrals.

### Timeline



“ Rural and Remote Health were very pleased to have some of our regional registered nurses join the first cohort of nurse prescribers for the province. Not only will this training allow our regional nurses to expand on their current legislated scope of practice, but this will enhance the care that we provide to our patients particularly in the area of chronic disease management. ”

- Director of Operations/Regional Director,  
Rural and Remote Health, Labrador-Grenfell Zone

### RN Prescriber Course Overview

#### Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (NURS-1713):

- Review health assessment theory.
- Conduct physical exams using clinical reasoning.
- Develop foundation for a differential diagnosis and care plan.

#### Rational Drug Therapy (NURS-1714):

- Explore updated clinical drug therapy.
- Focus on safe, effective, and rational drug use.
- Includes non-pharmacological approaches.

#### Clinical Decision Making (NURS-1715):

- Combine health assessment and drug therapy in clinical practice.
- Perform a minimum 80-hour practical experience with a preceptor (onsite or virtual).
- Apply clinical decision-making in real-world settings.

### Evaluation and Next Steps

- On-going qualitative descriptive analysis through focus group discussion participants.
- Collaboration with senior leadership to determine program areas for RN prescriber integration across all zones within NL Health Services, including but not limited to:
  - Family Care Teams, chronic disease management, and regional nursing.
- Establish a community of practice to support continuous improvement within NL Health Services and Professional Practice domains as RN prescriber program develops into 2024-2025.

### Aligning with Strategic Priorities

**Transformation:** This initiative represents a significant transformation in the scope of practice for RNs, leading to a more flexible and responsive health-care system.

**Our People:** By empowering RNs, the program supports the professional development of health-care staff and enhances job satisfaction.

**Access:** The primary goal is to improve access to health-care services, particularly in underserved areas.

**Quality:** By enabling RNs to provide more comprehensive care, the initiative is expected to improve the quality of patient outcomes.



“ I am so excited. I can't wait for this expanded scope to be a part of my practice. It really will improve access for our diabetes clients. ”

- Diabetes nurse educator, Labrador Health Centre



Professional Practice Program

