

## Career Profile NURSE

### What is a Nurse? – Career Description/Scope

A Nurse is a regulated health professional who utilizes skill, knowledge and judgment to apply relevant practice standards and guidelines to assess, plan, and implement care for patients in various health care settings (at TBRHSC we have in-patient, out-patient and community based departments).

“The practice of nursing is the promotion of health and the assessment of, the provision of, care for, and the treatment of, health conditions by supportive, preventive, therapeutic, palliative and rehabilitative means in order to attain or maintain optimal function” Nursing Act 1991.

### Education Requirements to Work in Ontario

- RN – Entry to practice is successful completion of a 4 year Baccalaureate degree from an approved University or College
- RPN – Must successfully complete a 2 year diploma program from an approved College of Applied Arts and Technology

### Nurse Practice Requirements

To practice in Ontario, Nurses must be registered with the College of Nurses of Ontario and perform the following requirements:

- Entry to Practice
  - Provincial certification exam
- Ongoing
  - Liability insurance with \$1,000,000 coverage
  - Annual Quality Assurance Program participation

### How does a Nurse Practice at TBRHSC?

- Works to scope of practice as outlined by various legislation and authorities including:
  - College of Nurses of Ontario
  - Regulated Health Professions Act
  - Nursing Act
  - Public Hospitals Act
- Works under controlled acts, and through direct orders or medical directives

### What does a Nurse Do?

Nurses help to coordinate and deliver care to assist the patient to attain, maintain, or recover optimal health and quality of life until death. The nurse utilizes a combination of

seven categories to deliver care to patients across the life span and in a variety of clinical settings:

- Cognitive skills are used for critical thinking (reviewing laboratory results and patient assessment to determine the best course of action) or for analytical reasoning to calculate medication doses
- Communication is used to respectfully interact with patients, families and other members of the allied health team and to document care delivered and participate in health policy development
- Interpersonal skills help us maintain boundaries and anticipate patient care needs
- Behavioral skills are engaged to deliver safe, ethical, competent care
- Psycho Motor skills are needed to work in a physically demanding, dexterity challenging environments (prolonged standing in the Operating Room, computer based documentation)
- Sensory skills help the nurse assess, plan and prioritize the care they deliver (they use what they see, hear, smell or sense in their plan of care)
- Environmental challenges exist in the various care environments whereby the nurse may experience unpleasant smells, noise, disease agents and sights while providing care to the individual in their case load

### Web Resources

- College of Nurses of Ontario [www.cno.org](http://www.cno.org)
- Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario [www.rnao.ca](http://www.rnao.ca)
- Federation of Health Regulatory Colleges of Ontario [www.regulatedhealthprofessions.on.ca](http://www.regulatedhealthprofessions.on.ca)
- Public Hospitals Act [www.e-laws.gov.on.ca](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca)