

Regulated Health Professions Network Act

The Regulated Health Professions Network (RHPN) was officially created by legislation in 2012, requiring all health profession regulators in Nova Scotia to be members and pay annual fees. In addition to these fees, the Department of Health (DHW) provides yearly funding. The Network facilitates collaboration among regulators on common public protection practices and serves as a single contact point for discussions and consultations with DHW on health care initiatives. The Minister is represented by DHW staff in a non-voting capacity at the Network table.

The Network can also offer advisory help, but not financial support, for setting up new regulators' organizational structures, including information on the required resources, policies, and staffing.

Patient Access to Care Act

The *Patient Access to Care Act* (PACA) was passed in April 2023 and addresses and removes barriers that had previously impeded efficient and effective recruitment and licensing processes.

Highlights of the *Patient Access to Care Act* include:

- Licensing or registration criteria waived for healthcare providers coming from other parts of Canada, as needed and in accordance with Canadian free trade obligations.
- Regulators cannot charge healthcare professionals, licensed in other parts of Canada, an application fee.
- Applications must be processed within five business days.
- Supports the creation of regulations that will apply the above provisions to non-Canadian jurisdictions
- Allows all regulators to recognize the credentials and licenses of healthcare professionals trained outside Canada.
- Ensures regulated healthcare professionals can work to their full training and allows expanded scope of practice through regulations rather than legislation.
- Employers can only request a sick note if an employee is absent for more than five consecutive days or if the employee has had two separate absences of five days or fewer within the past 12 months.
- Allows the government to prescribe Workers Compensation Board forms and documents to improve the process for Nova Scotians and relevant health care providers.

Fair Registration Practices Act

The *Fair Registration Practices Act* (FRPA) applies to 47 regulating bodies, including 22 health professional bodies, across government. The Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration is responsible for FRPA and supports the implementation of the [Canadian Free Trade Agreement](#).

To practice in a regulated occupation in Nova Scotia, one must meet set standards and be registered by the regulatory body. The Act governs the practices regulatory bodies use to register people who apply to become a member of a regulated occupation.

Under the Act, regulators are required to offer registration practices that are transparent, impartial, objective, and procedurally fair for all individuals, including those who earned their qualifications and gained experience outside Canada. Practices must be consistent with workers' mobility rights under the Canada Free Trade Agreement

Naturopathic Doctors Act

The *Naturopathic Doctors Act* offers title protection for naturopathic doctors to define the criteria (e.g. education) for use of the professional title but does not include a regulatory body. To practice under the title of naturopathic doctor individuals must be registered with a professional association. This act will be repealed and a regulatory body for naturopathy will be stood up as part of implementation of the RHPA.

Massage Therapy Act

The *Massage Therapist Titles Protection Act* provides title protection for massage therapists to define the criteria (e.g. education) for use of the professional title but does not include a regulatory body. To practice under the title of massage therapist individuals must be registered with a professional association.

Continuing Care Assistants Registry Act

The *Continuing Care Assistants Registry Act* defines the criteria (e.g. education) for use of the professional title of continuing care assistant (CCA) but does not establish a regulatory body. To practice under the title of CCA individuals must be registered with the Continuing Care Assistants Registry at [Continuing Care Assistance Registry](#).