



Review of Practice Consultations 2018/2019

CARNA policy and practice consultants provide confidential consultations to individuals and groups regarding issues that affect the delivery of safe, competent, and ethical nursing care. Regulated members of CARNA are the primary users of practice consultation followed by members of the public, employers, administrators, other health-care professionals, government and others. CARNA recognizes that changes in the health-care system are influenced by rapid changes in technology, and economic, political and socio-demographic factors. The annual review of practice consultations helps CARNA identify issues that affect nursing practice within this changing environment and provides an opportunity for strategy discussion to address the current challenges.

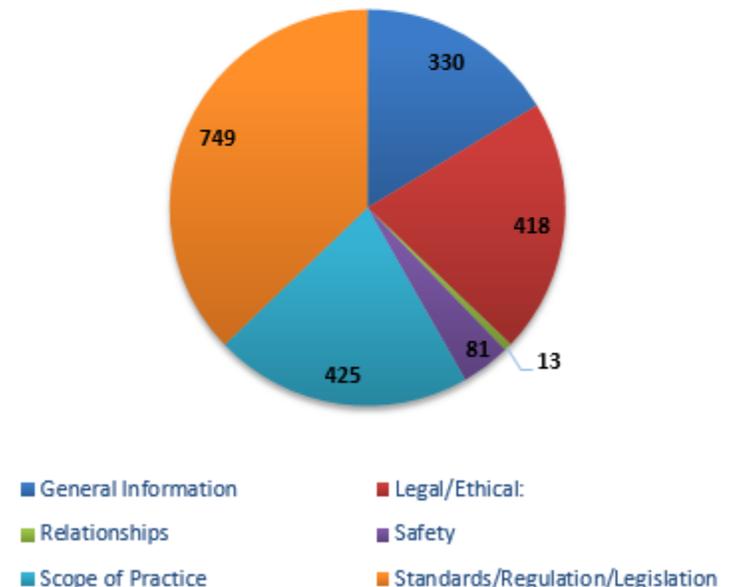
Standards/Regulation/Legislation

Standards/Regulation/Legislation was the largest category for 2018/2019. Most of the consultations in this category related to RN prescribing, which can be attributed to the revision of the *Registered Nurse Profession Regulation* that allows authority for RN prescribing Schedule 1 drugs and ordering of diagnostic tests for eligible RNs. Most of the members who called were seeking general advice but some wanted specific information about whether it was the right fit for their practice setting.

Consultations regarding NP prescribing were mostly about opioid agonist therapy, methadone for pain, and concerns around the restriction to prescribe cannabis for medical purposes. Many of the consultations related to administration of cannabis for medical purposes and applying the new Cannabis Act to practice. Updated resources to reflect this legislative change are on the [Practice and learning](#) page of the CARNA website.

There were several consultations about medication orders, particularly verbal orders, and medication administration, dispensing, preparation and protocols. Other consultations in this category related to telehealth (by telephone or video) and whether a regulated member can provide telehealth care to clients outside of the province, or for clients who reside out of the province but who are currently inside the province, or who are a regulated member of another jurisdiction outside of Alberta providing care to a client in Alberta. Information about telehealth is available on the [Practice and learning](#) page of the CARNA website.

2018-2019 Categories of Practice Consultations



Scope of Practice

Scope of Practice category is the second largest category for the 2018/2019 practice year. The majority of consultations in this category related to whether a specific restricted activity was within the scope of practice of an RN or NP. Others related to clarifying scope of practice and in particular understanding the streams of NP practice, the domains of nursing practice scope of practice for an individual RN or NP, and counting nursing hours. There were also consultations around clarity of the RN role with respect to providing diagnostic results, performing tests, ordering diagnostic tests, filling out requisitions, and point-of-care testing.

Legal/Ethical

Legal/Ethical was the third largest category for the 2018/2019 practice year, with the majority of consultations relating to risk management, such as general employee concerns (questioning policies, whether nurses can give results to patients, accountability/responsibility, staffing, and inadequate orientation or training).

There were a large number of consultations related to liability insurance, where often the regulated member was recommended to contact the Canadian Nurses Protective Society for further information about their questions or inquiries. Other liability related consultations pertained to volunteering, and overlapping scopes of practice. Several consultations were about self-employed practice. Information about self-employed practice is available on the [Registration and renewal](#) page of the CARNA website.

There were also consultations related to moral or ethical distress in particular; addressing unsafe practice situations, queue jumping, administration of naloxone, fitness to practice, questioning policies and processes in their employment setting, off duty behaviour, the obligation to report abuse (including sexual abuse), and system or facility concerns.

