

Submitted by: College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba

There are several barriers to the provision of virtual healthcare across Canada. However, I will specify those that reflect most on regulation, and the barriers within the regulatory system for registered nurses, specifically.

Currently, due to varied provincial legislation defining the practice of registered nurses, the ability of a registered nurse to provide virtual healthcare to individuals who are not in their jurisdiction is hampered by the need for the RN to hold a valid certificate of practice, or registration, in the jurisdiction where the individual lives. Therefore, the provision of expert post-procedure care, continual monitoring of chronic disease, and outreach to individuals in rural and remote areas is impeded if the care provider (RN) does not reside in the individual's jurisdiction.

The regulatory structure for RNs is expensive to the registrant and requires adherence, at times, to different standards. This discourages RNs from holding multiple registrations, and also limits the pool of RNs to provide this level of care.

In order for this issue to be addressed, multiple legislation changes would be required to allow RNs to hold a valid registration in their home province, and be able to provide care to individuals in other jurisdictions. A single registry for all nurses (RNs, LPNs and Registered Psychiatric Nurses, RPNs) would also enormously facilitate the ability to ensure that the nurse providing care was indeed a registrant in good standing.