

## **JOINT COMMUNICATION**

AHS/UNA Collective Agreement

### **Virtual Care**

Alberta Health Services (AHS) and United Nurses of Alberta (UNA) (“the parties”) agree to the following points listed below for virtual care practice, including any care that is provided for an individual geographically located *outside* Alberta:

- AHS Employees may have provided virtual care to individuals geographically located outside of Alberta though the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted unmet registration requirements for certain jurisdictions.
- AHS will advise Employees when their job duties may require them to provide virtual care to an individual geographically located outside Alberta.
- Employees should be providing virtual care while meeting the appropriate registration requirements, including a practice permit, with the applicable regulator in the jurisdiction where the individual is geographically located.
- Employees may connect with the applicable regulators during work time to understand the appropriate professional practice permits for in person and/or virtual care.
  - For example, if an Employee, located in Alberta, is providing care to an individual over the phone in British Columbia, the parties recommend that the Employee contact the College of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CRNA), and the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM).
- Employees will not be required to pay for additional practice permits where the Employer has reached interprovincial reciprocal service agreements.
  - Saskatchewan requires a vulnerable sector record check which will be reimbursed by the Employer.
- Employees will be allowed to register and/or renew for additional practice permits during work time.
- Employees will be allowed to review provincial professional practice guidelines and standards for virtual care during work time.
- Employees should be providing virtual care and obtain the appropriate professional liability protection in the jurisdiction the individual is geographically located in.
- Employees should contact the [Canadian Nurses Protective Society \(CNPS\)](#) to understand the professional liability protections for in person and/or virtual care.

- Employees should contact their manager if they are not comfortable providing virtual care as part of their duties.
- If the Employee is unable to resolve their concern with their manager related to a general collective agreement concern, they may contact their Labour Relations Officer (LRO) or their Local.
- If the Employee is unable to resolve their concern with their manager related to a professional practice or patient safety/quality of care concern, they may contact their union's professional responsibility committee representative or their assigned Professional Responsibility Advisor.
- Employees and AHS Managers who are not currently providing virtual care are encouraged to initiate proactive discussions to determine if virtual care could be implemented in their practice setting and ensuring the opportunity for obtaining additional practice permits can happen as needed.

**Commonly Used Resources:**

- AHS Out of Province Virtual Care Registration Information Centre
- [Best Practice Guideline for Virtual Care](#)
- [Canadian Nurses Protective Society](#) (CNPS)
- [College of Registered Nurses of Alberta](#) (CRNA)
- [British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives](#) (BCCNM)
- [College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan](#) (CRNS)
- [Registered Nurses Association of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut](#) (RNANTNU)

**Commonly Used Renewal Dates to Remember:**

- College of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CRNA): September 30, annually
- British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM): To be determined (temporary process currently in place)
- College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan (CRNS): *November 30 annually*
- Registered Nurses Association of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (RNANTNU): *December 31 annually*

**For the Employer:**



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**For the Union:**



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Reference:

Alberta Health Services. (2021). [Virtual Care Best Practice Guide \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/virtual-care-best-practice-guide)