

Guidelines for Hiring Nurse Practitioners with Provisional Registration

In British Columbia, nurse practitioners who have graduated from their NP education program but have not yet completed their exam and licensing can be granted provisional registration (officially this is known as “nurse practitioner (provisional) registration”). To qualify for nurse practitioner (provisional) registration, an applicant must have applied to take, or be awaiting the results of, the nurse practitioner examinations and have met all the other requirements for nurse practitioner registration. For details on this see the [BC College of Nursing Professionals site](#)ⁱ.

Primary Care Networks may contract with either nurse practitioners who are fully licensed or those with provisional registrationⁱⁱ. Provisionally registered NPs must use the NP (Provisional) service contract template.

The NP (Provisional) Service Contract template differs slightly from the regular PCN NP Service Contract template in order to comply with the terms set out by the BC College of Nursing Professionals (BCCNP) for provisionally licensed NPs. As per the NP (Provisional) Service Contract template, it is expected that the NP will become a Practising NP registrant within one year. Note that BCCNP limits provisional registration to one year and requires review after. Employers are encouraged to confirm expiry dates and current authorizations for prospective NPs. Once an NP becomes a practising NP registrant, the NP may enter into a regular 3-year Service Contract with the health authority. At this point, the NP (Provisional) Service Contract would be terminated.

The decision to hire a provisionally registered NP rests with the practice. The following is intended to provide an overview to assist with clarifying the processes involved with hiring provisionally licensed NPs. This document does not supersede the requirements outlined by BCCNP – please refer to the BCCNP website for the most [up to date information on NP registration requirements](#)ⁱⁱⁱ.

The following steps outline the process for hiring an NP (Provisional) on a PCN Provisional Service Contract:

1. The NP and the hiring practice should have a conversation to ensure that both parties are aware of the requirements of the provisional license as outlined by the BCCNP. One of the key requirements is that there is a fully licensed MD or NP who is monitoring the NP (Provisional)'s practice. Provisional NPs are not allowed to order tests/diagnostics or prescribe medications under their own registration and a fully licensed MD or NP must review and submit these components under their license.
2. If the practice decides to proceed with hiring of the NP the next step is to arrange for the NP to obtain provisional registration. To do this, both the NP and the hiring practice must sign Form 8.1A: Application for Provisional Registration, which can be found in the NP registration package, to affirm that they will meet the requirements of the conditions of the provisional registrant.
3. The application for provisional NP registration must be submitted and NP (Provisional) registration obtained prior to the completion and signing of the PCN Service Contract.

4. Once the application for provisional NP registration is approved and the NP (Provisional) registration is confirmed on the BCCNP website, the NP may then apply for an MSP number (form [2997^{iv}](#)). The MSP number will allow the NP to submit encounter codes to government.
5. Once the provisional NP has obtained an MSP number, the PCN Service Contract for Provisionally registered NPs may be signed.

Note that if you are an NP (Provisional) registrant and wish to incorporate prior to entering a service agreement, the *Nurses (Registered) and Nurse Practitioners Regulation* limits you to only using the title “Provisional Nurse Practitioner” or other variations, if you choose to use your title as part of your incorporated name.

ⁱ https://www.bccnp.ca/Registration/RN_NP/Provisional/Pages/Default.aspx

ⁱⁱ This includes NPs hired on an NP Service Contract to work in any model of care within a PCN i.e. PMH, UPCC, CHC, First Nation Initiatives or NP-Primary Care Clinics.

ⁱⁱⁱ https://www.bccnp.ca/Registration/RN_NP/Pages/Default.aspx

^{iv} <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/forms/2997fil.pdf>