

Nurse Practitioner FAQ's

Am I allowed to practice independently or be self-employed, as an NP?

Yes, NPs may be self-employed once their practice has been approved by the NANB. As the regulator of NPs, NANB has a formal process to approve independent practice or self-employed practice. Independent practitioners have many things to consider from a business perspective, a liability perspective, a legislative perspective and from a registration perspective.

NANB does not offer business advice but has created a document "*Guidelines for Self-Employed Registered Nurses*".

<http://www.nanb.nb.ca/media/resource/NANB-GuidelinesSelfEmployedRNs-E.pdf>

From a liability perspective, the Canadian Nurse Protective Society (CNPS), provides coverage to NPs practising nursing. If a practice is not approved by the NANB, there could be risk of the practice not being deemed nursing, resulting in a potential risk of not being covered by the liability provider.

If the practice is not approved by NANB, the NP is not allowed to count the hours of practice towards registration renewal and cannot use the title NP while practising as a self-employed practitioner.

NPs are also required to submit, in writing, the physician who has agreed to collaborate with them, as outlined in the provincial *Nurses Act*, while self-employed. The registrar is to know where NPs are employed (all employments).

If a nurse practitioner desires to work independently as an RN or an NP, they must contact NANB for further direction.