

**NOVA SCOTIA
NURSING AND
MIDWIFERY
REGULATOR**

Licence Renewal Guide for Nurses

Licence renewal guide for nurses

The Nova Scotia Nursing and Midwifery Regulator (NSNMR) is the regulatory body for licensed practical nurses (LPNs), registered psychiatric nurses, registered nurses (RNs), nurse practitioners (NPs) and midwives (R.M.s) in Nova Scotia. Our mandate is to protect the public by promoting the provision of safe, competent, ethical and compassionate services by its registrants.

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Every year, all nurses in Nova Scotia are required to renew their licence. The NSNMR Licence Renewal Guide is a resource that provides important renewal information and can help answer any questions you may have.

Important Renewal Dates

September 2, 2026: First day to renew your licence.

October 31, 2026: The renewal period and online renewal portal close. Applications received after the end of the business day on October 31 may not be processed until November 1. You may not work until your licence has been renewed.

November 1, 2026: First day of the new licensure year. Renewal on or after this date is subject to a reactivation fee. Working without an active licence may be considered professional misconduct and subject to a complaint.

We encourage you to start your licence renewal process early!

How to Login to the NSNMR Registrant Portal

- Go to the [NSNMR registrant portal](#).
- Log in with your email and password.
 - Have you forgotten your password? Click 'Forgot your password' and follow the instructions in the email you receive.
- Have you forgotten the email associated with your profile? Email registration@nsnmr.ca for help. Do not create a new account.

Application Sections



To access the renewal application, login to the registrant portal. Under the heading “Complete my Renewal” click the “Apply” button beside the applicable designation.

When completing your licence renewal, it is important to note there are two sections of the application. The first section is the ‘Profile Update’ and the second section is the renewal portion ‘2026/2027 – Renewal’. You must complete both sections to finalize and submit your application.

More Information or Documentation that may be Required

Changes to your name require supporting documents

- Upload a copy of the name change document (i.e. marriage certificate) directly into your portal.

Changes to your gender

- To change your gender please email registration@nsnmr.ca to request the change.

Good standing questions

- If there is a matter which could impact whether you have the capacity, competence or character to safely and ethically practice, you may be required to provide further detailed information. This could include if you have criminal charges, you have been the subject of a complaint or disciplinary matter or have been terminated from a role (not previously reported to NSNMR). Please review the questions carefully to ensure you answer them accurately.

Please note: Change documents and “yes” answers to good standing questions must be reviewed by NSNMR staff before your application can be approved and your licence can be renewed. This may take a few days. Please consider this when submitting your renewal application.

Currency of Practice – Determining Your Practice Hours

Nursing practice occurs in a variety of roles and settings. To practice as a nurse in Nova Scotia, you must be registered and hold a current licence with NSNMR. Only hours accumulated in a role that requires nursing knowledge, education, and meets the legal definition of nursing services can be counted towards your nursing practice hours. Our [Nursing Practice Hours Assessment Tool](#) can be used to determine if you can count your practice hours as nursing practice.

- [Learn more about currency of practice requirements.](#)

Previously reported practice hours

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED PRACTICE HOURS					
Year	RN	NP	RPN	LPN	Employer(s)
2021/2022	1562	-	-	-	• Dartmouth General Hospital
Year	RN	NP	RPN	LPN	Employer(s)
2022/2023	200	-	-	-	• Dartmouth General Hospital
Year	RN	NP	RPN	LPN	Employer(s)
2023/2024	2500	-	-	-	• Dartmouth General Hospital
Year	RN	NP	RPN	LPN	Employer(s)
2024/2025	1807	-	-	-	• Dartmouth General Hospital

Is there an error in previously reported practice hours? Complete your renewal application as usual and contact registration@nsnmr.ca noting what errors are to be corrected.

Please note: If you have only licensed with NSNMR recently, you may not see the entire history of your practice hours.

Professional Licensure

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

Please enter all the jurisdictions that you have held registration/licensure with in the past 12 months. It is not necessary to include your licence information with NSNMR.

Add Click here to add additional jurisdiction

New Jurisdiction 

* Registration Number	Expiry date	
	yyyy-mm-dd 	
* Country	* Province	* Jurisdiction
-	-	-

Provide information about other nursing licences you have held in the last 12 months. To do this, click 'add' and fill in the required fields. If you hold licences for multiple designations with NSNMR (i.e. RN and NP), you are not required to report this.

Education Information

Your application is populated with post-secondary nursing education information you previously reported.

Is there an error in previously reported education information? Complete your renewal application as usual and contact registration@nsnmr.ca noting what errors are to be corrected.

Employment Information

Your application is populated with employer information you previously reported.

Please update the fields to reflect the previous licensure year – below is an example. If you are no longer with this employer, please fill in the 'leave or end date'.

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Employment

The Regulator requires ALL registrants to ensure their employment information is accurate and current. Should any of the employment information below be inaccurate, please make the necessary changes to the employer in the section below.

Dartmouth General Hospital

* Designation

Employment type

Full time

Employment position

Staff Nurse/Direct care provider

Practice area

Primary care

Please enter the total practice hours for this employer from 01-Nov-2025 to 31-Oct-2026.

* Practice hours

* Employment type

* Employment type preference ?

* Employment position

* Practice area

* Employment category

* Employment funding source ?

* Virtual care delivery ?

* Methods of care ?

Work phone

Work email

Leave or end date (if no longer working at this location)

Have questions? Click on the '?' or check out the glossary below. Our [CIHI resource](#) also contains definitions on the options found in the employment role and practice area drop-downs.

Previously reported practice hours

- Click the blue 'add' button.
- Under "Organization" type in your employers. **If you work at Nova Scotia Health or another employer with multiple facilities**, type in the facility or site name (i.e., Dartmouth General Hospital or Arborstone Enhanced Care).

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Can't find your employer? Try spelling out the full name versus using abbreviations.

My employer is not listed. Provide their name, location and phone number in the large "free" text box.

Please note: Employer information added to the large "free" text box must be reviewed by NSNMR staff before your application can be approved and your licence renewed. This may take a few days. Please consider this when submitting your renewal application.

Have questions? Click on the '?' or check out the glossary below.

[Add](#) [Click here to add additional employer\(s\)](#)

Employer

Please enter the name of the facility where you work

If you are a self-employed nurse and your business does not have a registered name, your name will appear in the organization list for NSNMR's database as "First and Last Name - Self Employed" which is viewable to other NSNMR registrants and applicants. If you have any questions please contact registration@nsnmr.ca.

Organization

* Employment type

-

* Employment type preference ?

-

* Employment position

-

* Practice area

-

* Employment category

-

* Employment funding source ?

-

* Virtual care delivery ?

-

* Methods of care ?

-

Work phone

Example: 403-555-5555

Work email

* Start date

yyyy-mm-dd

End date (if applicable)

yyyy-mm-dd

If your employer facility is not available in the list please enter the name, full address and phone number here

Please enter the total practice hours for this employer from 01-Nov-2025 to 31-Oct-2026.

* Practice hours

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Self employment

Nurses in self-employed practice provide professional nursing services to clients in a variety of practice settings as the owner of an independent business (sole proprietorship, partnership or corporation) or as an independent contractor.

To update your employment information with self-employment, you must follow the below instructions:

- In the text box include your company name, address (including postal code), and phone number.
- If there is no company name, indicate 'Full Name – Self Employed'.
- If there is no company address, use your home address.

If your employer facility is not available in the list please enter the name, full address and phone number here

Continuing Competence Program

The [Continuing Competence Program \(CCP\)](#) is a regulatory program and quality assurance mechanism. Every nurse in Nova Scotia is required to successfully complete the CCP requirements as part of their annual licensure requirement regardless of their employment status. The CCP requirement has been in place for all nurses for many years.

Professional Liability Protection

Nurses in Nova Scotia must have professional liability protection to legally practise nursing. Professional liability protection provides nurses with support and services if ever faced with allegations of professional negligence.

Nurses receive professional liability protection from a third-party vendor and it is incorporated into their nursing licensure fee each year during renewal.

- LPNs receive professional liability protection through [Navacord](#).
- RNs and NPs receive professional liability protection through [the Canadian Nurses Protective Society](#).

Paying for Your Licence & Accessing Your Receipt

How to Pay an Invoice in your Portal with a Credit Card

- [Log in to the portal](#) using your email and password.
- Select the '\$' for the invoice you wish to pay.
- Click the 'pay' button once you open the invoice.

Payment Options

We accept the following payment options:

- Visa or MasterCard
- Prepaid Visa or MasterCard Credit Card (the pre-paid card must have a balance that can pay the entire fee. Multiple cards cannot be used).
- E-transfers sent to finance@nsnmr.ca – please include name of registrant, registration number and reason for payment.
- Canadian Certified Cheque payable to the "Nova Scotia Nursing and Midwifery Regulator"
- Personal Cheque payable to the "Nova Scotia Nursing and Midwifery Regulator"
- Canadian Money Order payable to the "Nova Scotia Nursing and Midwifery Regulator"

Use of our precise title is required. Our acronym will not be accepted.

Please Note: If you are paying by Canadian Certified Cheque, personal cheque or Canadian Money Order, an **additional 10 business days of processing time is required** for the transaction to clear the bank. Consider this when submitting your renewal application.

Regardless of your payment method, your application will not be approved and your **renewal will not be complete until payment in full is received**.

Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD)

Our pre-authorized debit program gives you the ability to pay next year's licensure fee through monthly payments made throughout the year rather than paying in one lump sum.

To sign up, [log in to the portal](#) and select "Sign up for PAD" on the left menu and follow the instructions. [Read more about the PAD](#).

Blocked Applications: Not Receiving an Automatic Invoice

In some cases, after completing your renewal application, your application may require review and you may not receive an automatic invoice right away. Some reasons why applications may need further review include:

- You do not meet the currency of practice requirement
- You answered 'yes' to a good standing declaration question
- Your CCP Audit is incomplete
- You have an unlisted employer
- You have a pending name or gender change
- Nurse Practitioner Declaration
- Nurse Prescriber Declaration

You should receive an email when the review is complete. This can take several days. If approved, you can log in to the portal to pay your invoice.

Accessing your Receipt

- Log in to the portal.
- On your main page, under 'invoices' choose 'include paid'.
- Select the desired receipt.

Confirming your Licensure

You will be notified by email when your licence has been renewed. You are expected to confirm that your licence has been renewed before practising after October 31, 2026. Please note that submission of your application or payment does not mean that your licence has been renewed.

You can verify that your licence has been renewed using our [Search for a Nurse tool](#). You will be able to see details including current registration, effective date and other information.

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Search for a Nurse

The Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA) requires that we publish specific information on our website about registrants registered and/or licensed in Nova Scotia. The "Search for a Nurse" tool will allow you to confirm that a person who is providing nursing services in Nova Scotia is authorized to do so.

If searching for a midwife, please visit the banner on our homepage which will redirect you to that information. We appreciate your patience as we work towards aligning processes as part of our ongoing amalgamation plans.

In some cases, there may be an overlap of registration numbers for **different licensing categories of nurses**. Please note, all three elements (name, licensing category and registration number), determines an individual's unique status.

If you are performing multiple searches, you are limited to six searches per minute. Once you exceed this limit, you may receive an error notice. You will be able to resume your search once this minute has passed.

Nurse practitioners and registered nurse prescribers report their employment or practice-related contact information to the NSNMR. Please contact practice@nsnmr.ca if this contact information is inaccurate.

For security purposes, if Search for a Nurse is experiencing search volumes that are higher than usual, you may be prompted to fill out a CAPTCHA notice before you can resume your search.

[> How to find a nurse](#)

Registration #	First name	Last name
128301		
Has Complaint Comment ☐	Enable sound like names ☐	
Search		

[Search: Registration #: 128301 >> 1 registrant\(s\) found](#)

Has conditions  Has comment 				
Registrant	Registration	Effective	Expires	
Registration #128301	Licensed Practical Nurse - Practising Licensed Practical Nurses Register	2026-Jul-9	2026-Oct-31	Details > 

The current licence will only be visible in the directory once it has been processed and paid. If you are trying to view the 2026-2027 licence prior to the October 31 deadline, you have to click on the 'i' or details to see the future date licence.

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Registrant	Registration	Effective	Expires	
Registration #128301	Licensed Practical Nurse - Practising	2026-Nov-1	2027-Oct-31	Details >

Not Renewing your Licence On Time

You are responsible to renew your licence every year by October 31, to legally practise as a nurse. If you do not renew your licence, you are not eligible to practice as a nurse. Working without an active licence may be considered professional misconduct and subject to a complaint. [Learn more about what can happen if you practise without a licence.](#)

Renewal on or after November 1 is subject to a reactivation fee.

Leave of Absence, Retiring from Nursing or Leaving Nova Scotia

If you plan to work at all after November 1, 2026, you must renew your licence and pay the annual fee. This applies even if you only work a few days or weeks before you go on a leave of absence from your work, retire from the profession or leave Nova Scotia.

If you do not plan to practice (for any reason) after October 31, 2026, you do not need to hold a practising licence and do not need to renew.

- [Learn more about maternity and paternity leave.](#)
- [Learn more about illness leave.](#)

Retirement from the Profession

[Retirement from the profession](#) means you no longer intend to practice or work as a nurse. This is different from retirement from your employment, which means you are no longer going to work at that specific nursing job, but are free to take another nursing job elsewhere.

If you plan to get another nursing job post-employment retirement, you must renew your licence. If you do not intend to practice nursing again after October 31, you are not required to submit a renewal application. On November 1 your licence will be updated to the "not licensed" category. This is the correct licence category if you have retired from nursing and do not intend to practice.

Pro-rated Fees

If you return to practice during the licensure year, NSNMR offers prorated fees starting in May for LPNs and starting in July for RPNs, RNs and NPs. Before these dates, you are required to pay the full fee for the licensure year, and we do not offer any type of licence discount. [Learn more about fees.](#)

How to Contact NSNMR

Do not hesitate to ask for help - NSNMR offers a multitude of ways you can engage with us for the support you require.

We are happy to provide you with information related to renewal via email. Please contact registration@nsnmr. Additionally, NSNMR has computers at our office, located at 300-120 Western Parkway, Bedford, if you require in-person assistance. Please email to book an appointment.