

**RPNC**  
*Registered  
Psychiatric  
Nurses  
Of Canada*

**POSITION STATEMENT ON  
MASTER'S PREPARATION IN PSYCHIATRIC NURSING**

The Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Canada asserts that there is an urgent need for Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPN) prepared at the master's level to provide psychiatric nursing leadership in education, mental health and health services, administration, and research.

**Background**

In Canada, there are no master's programs in psychiatric nursing that are specifically designed to meet the learning needs of Registered Psychiatric Nurses holding a baccalaureate degree in psychiatric nursing. There is an urgent need for the development and implementation of graduate programs in psychiatric nursing to ensure availability of adequate numbers of Registered Psychiatric Nurses educated at the master's level to teach and mentor psychiatric nursing students enrolled in baccalaureate degree programs in psychiatric nursing, and with RPNs in psychiatric nursing clinical practice. Master's level preparation in psychiatric nursing would focus on development of psychiatric nursing in clinical practice, education, administration, and research

Registered Psychiatric Nurses prepared with a master's degree in psychiatric nursing are needed to:

- Provide clinical leadership in a variety of clinical contexts in our changing health care delivery systems.
- Participate in the education of psychiatric nurses at the diploma and baccalaureate levels as leaders in psychiatric nursing education contributing to the body of psychiatric nursing knowledge in meeting the holistic health outcomes of Canadians in our changing health care system.
- Provide leadership in the area of administration, utilizing knowledge of organizational theories, change theories, politics, systems analysis, strategic management, resources allocation, fiscal management, population health care trends and critical analysis of health policy and frameworks.
- Participate in research, test, validate existing theory, synthesize, evaluate, disseminate and utilize relevant research findings, and conduct, test and validate psychiatric nursing research that contributes to and supports the ongoing development of mental health outcomes for Canadians and contributes to the body of psychiatric nursing knowledge.

**Approved by the Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Canada**

**Date: June 24, 2008**