

**COLLEGE OF REGISTERED PSYCHIATRIC NURSES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**June 12, 2008**

The Quality Assurance Committee continues to meet regularly and is in the process of establishing a quality assurance program for the CRPNBC that meets the requirements of the Health Professions Act (HPA). In doing so, the committee has identified the roles, responsibilities and tasks of this committee in relation to the other CRPNBC committees. It is clear that this committee must work closely with the CRPNBC Registration Committee as well as with the other College committees. Members of the Quality Assurance Committee have attended various quality assurance conferences as a way of gathering information on establishing QA programs for regulatory Colleges. In addition, committee members have reviewed the QA programs of the other regulatory bodies for psychiatric nursing in Canada.

The QA committee identified the components of QA programs and as it did so, it became apparent that one of the essential elements of a QA program for a regulatory College was to establish a Practice Review Process for registrants, that was non threatening and user friendly, but still met all the criteria set by the Health Professions Act. Based on this, the committee is currently reviewing and revising the existing merits and downfalls of basing a quality assurance program on the current entry level competency document - recognizing that this document needs some revision with the greater concern being that it may not be appropriate to establish a practice review process for experienced practicing RPNs based on CRPNBC entry level competencies. The committee has agreed that for our current purposes, we will develop a quality assurance program based on the CRPNBC standards. A number of issues exist with this option as well, for example if an RPN has been employed in administration - is this individual expected to still demonstrate competency at all levels of practice and how valid would this be to his/her practice? Additionally, the committee continues to have discussions related to QA terminology and language (ie. practice review, practice audit etc).

The committee feels it is important to have input from registrants on the development of a CRPNBC Practice Review process for registrants. Therefore, once the committee has drafted a new document and process for ongoing practice reviews, workplace representatives will be invited to participate in "simulation" practice review sessions and thereby provide the committee with relevant feedback on the document, process and language. The committee also feels that it is important to have consumer input to our QA Program and will actively seek this input during the development process - a consumer representative sits on the committee for this purpose.

Finally, Anna Helewka and Grant Warrington of the committee will be presenting a session entitled "*Quality Assurance - Trendy Catchphrase or A Declaration of Excellence?*" at the 2008 World Congress. This presentation will be to communicate information about QA as well as to gather information on the meaning of QA for RPNs.

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Respectively submitted  
Anna Helewka, Chair