



## NATIONAL EMERGENCY NURSES ASSOCIATION

The National Emergency Nurses Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the enhancement of the profession of Emergency Nursing. Governance is multi-level, including the Canada Corporation Not-for-Profit Act (NFP), NENA Governing Bylaws, NENA Board Policies and Robert's Rules of Order.

### Purpose:

1. To comply with NENA By-Laws as approved at the annual Meeting of Members (June 2017) which state, "to be qualified to serve as an elected Director to the NENA Board, member must be a Registered Nurse employed in Canadian Emergency Nursing practice, research, education or leadership and must reside in the province of which they represent."
2. To define Emergency Nursing that will be used as criteria in determining eligibility to serve as a Director on the NENA Board
3. To comply with Section 5.06 of the NENA By-laws – Vacancy in Office – which states the office shall be automatically vacated if a Director is no longer employed in Emergency Nursing.

### Description:

The NENA Board of Directors shall be comprised of 5 - 15 elected Directors, serving as Officers or Provincial/Territory representatives. Executive officer positions shall include Vice President/President, Secretary, Director of Education and Director of Promotion and Recruitment.

Please see Board Policy Job Descriptions for information and qualifications necessary for each position.

The Nominations Process is described in the NENA Governing Bylaws, with Board Policy available detailing the process.

### Emergency Nursing Definition:

Emergency nursing is defined as care of individuals of all ages with perceived or actual physical or emotional alterations of health that are undiagnosed or that require further interventions. (Newberry L. ed. Sheehy's emergency nursing principles and practice. St. Louis, MO: Mosby, 1998:3–5.)

Emergency nursing practice requires a unique blend of generalized and specialized assessment, intervention and management skills.

Emergency nursing includes clinical practice, research, education, and leadership occurring within or associated with an emergency department collaborating with other members of the health care team.

- ❖ Clinical Practice - emergency nurses provide direct care, including triage, flow and management of patients, assessment, intervention and evaluation of care to all emergency patients.
- ❖ Research - Emergency nursing practice is dynamic, fluid, and continually evolving and requires lifelong learning. Like all nursing disciplines, the scientific basis of emergency nursing practice is constantly changing and new knowledge must be developed and validated through research. The emergency nurse researcher must be primarily focused on emergency practice, standards, and/or system design and integration.
- ❖ Education - emergency educators provide learning to emergency nurses, physicians and other members of the health care team. The emergency nurse educator must be primarily focused on emergency practice.
- ❖ Leadership - . Understanding leadership roles are multifaceted, the emergency nurse leader must be primarily focused on emergency practice, quality, standards and system design and implementation.

Emergency nursing clinical practice settings:

- ❖ Hospital emergency department
- ❖ Free-standing Emergency Department
- ❖ Military: Specifically a Critical Care Nursing Officer whose primary role and maintenance of clinical skills is within the emergency department setting
- ❖ Urgent care center, defined as a centre that is staffed with nurses and physicians prepared to receive the severely sick and injured patients but whose primary role is the less acute patient.

Director Qualifications:

- ❖ Currently employed in Canadian emergency nursing environment, as defined above
- ❖ RN licensed to practice in Canada
- ❖ Proficient with computers and software programs including word processing and spreadsheets
- ❖ Basic understanding of accounting principles
- ❖ Able to attend majority of in-person and electronic Board meetings (NENA By-Laws, Section 5.06)
- ❖ ENC(C) (or equivalent certification) an asset
- ❖ Expected to attend Annual National Conference
- ❖ Current NENA member for a minimum of 1 year
- ❖ Executive officer positions may require additional qualifications, past Board of Directors experience, Governance and Structure experience, as per NENA Policy Job Descriptions

Not considered to be a part of Emergency Nursing with rationale:

- ❖ Transport Nurses – although may be based out of Emergency Department (ED), have their own organization and primary focus is not bedside care of ED patients as a whole.
- ❖ Forensic or Sexual Assault Nurses – although may be based out of ED, have their own organization and primary focus is not bedside care of ED patients as a whole.
- ❖ Trauma Program Managers/Clinicians: while the trauma system may interface with the Emergency Department, trauma systems are far reaching from Prevention to Rehabilitation. As such, trauma clinicians have an organization (Trauma Association of Canada) to address their specialty interests. As well, Emergency Department Care is more general than trauma alone.