


NATIONAL EMERGENCY NURSES ASSOCIATION

	Board Policy	ED Definition – Board of Director Qualifications
	Number of Pages	2
	Approval Date	November 2019

The National Emergency Nurses Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the enhancement of the profession of Emergency Nursing in Canada. Governance is multi-level, as determined by the Canada Corporation Not-for-Profit Act (NFP), NENA Governing Bylaws and NENA Board Policies.

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 and other Officers as deemed necessary by the BOD.

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 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 in an area of the facility designed for the treatment of a large majority of the population. Emergency nursing care is episodic, primary, usually acute and occurs in a variety of settings. (Expanded on from Howard, P.K. & Steinmann, R.A. (Eds) (2010). Sheehy’s emergency nursing principles and practice (6thEd). Emergency Nurses Association, St. Louis, MO: Mosby Elsevier: p 4-5)

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.

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- ❖ 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, including but not limited to

- ❖ 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 but whose primary role is the less acute patient.
- ❖ Rural and Remote nursing stations

Director Qualifications

- ❖ Currently employed in Canadian emergency nursing environment, as defined above
- ❖ RN licensed to practice Nursing in Canada
- ❖ Proficient with computers and software programs, including word processing and spreadsheets
- ❖ Basic understanding of accounting principles
- ❖ Able to attend the majority of in-person and electronic Board meetings (as per NENA By-Laws)
- ❖ ENC(C) certification an asset
- ❖ Expected to attend Annual NENA Conference
- ❖ Current NENA member, in good standing, for a minimum of 1 year
- ❖ No outstanding financial debt owing to NENA
- ❖ Executive officer positions may require additional qualifications, i.e.: past Board of Directors experience, Governance and Structure experience, as per NENA Policy