

Reproductive Health – Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Certification Education Program for Registered Nurses

The Program

The *Certification in Reproductive Health – Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Online Course* is recognized and approved by the British Columbia College for Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM) as a certifying education program for registered nurses practicing STI care. The program consists of an online theory component, followed by a clinical practice experience:

- An online theory course component delivered over 10 weeks
 - Introduction module
 - 6 learning modules
 - Assessment components and a final exam
 - It is expected that learners dedicate a time commitment of **4-6 hours each week** to complete the required theory and assessment pieces.
- An 18-hour clinical practice experience
 - Including a 4-hour virtual clinical practice experience workshop

Course Cohorts

The STI Certification Education Program is offered through five cohorts each academic year, with cohorts running between September and May.

Course Seats

Each cohort is limited to 22 learners. The majority of seats are allocated to eligible applicants employed by a BC Health Authority. A representative from each Health Authority will select which learners are put forward into the course. One seat per cohort is reserved for an eligible applicant who is not employed by a Health Authority.

Prerequisites

- Currently practising as a RN in British Columbia
- Employer approval and support (i.e., Program Manager or Nursing Supervisor)
- Practicum sites for the clinical practice experience must be done in a health authority sponsored or health authority-affiliated site (placements cannot be done in private clinics).

Supplemental Education (may be considered)

- Pelvic exam competency remains a required component to achieve STI certification. Employers are encouraged to consider supporting supplemental training when opportunities to gain within their organization. The [Pelvic Exam Course](#) offered through the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) is not a requirement for certification. Please note there is a cost to the BCIT course.

Cost

- There is no tuition cost for taking the STI Certification Online Course. BCCDC does not cover the cost of expenses related to travel and accommodation when attending the clinical practice experience.

Course Application

- Complete this form in full and return all pages to sticourse@bccdc.ca
- Priority will be given to Provincial Public Health Nurses requiring STI Certification as part of their role. Nurses will be expected to be able to utilize their certification to full scope performing STI assessment, diagnosis, treatment and follow up on a regular and ongoing basis in order to maintain competency.
- Learners who complete the STI Certification Education Program (theory and clinical practice experience) are eligible to [apply for BCCNM](#) for Reproductive Health (STI) certification.

STI Certification Education Program Application (2026 - 2027)

Please complete in full the application form and **submit all pages** to sticourse@bccdc.ca. Successful applicants will be contacted approximately 4 weeks prior to the course start date.

Applicant information (to be completed in full by applicant)		
Last:	First:	Middle Initial:
Name of employer:	Name of Facility:	
Street Address (or mailing address if different):	City:	Postal Code:
Email Address:	Phone number:	

Registration & Employment
Are you a Registered Nurse in British Columbia with an active practicing license? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Indicate which Regional Health Authority (RHA) supports your site: ☐ VCH ☐ FH ☐ VIHA ☐ IH ☐ NH ☐ FNHA ☐ Other:
Please indicate your employment status: ☐ Full Time ☐ Part time ☐ Casual

Practice Setting & STI Service Delivery	
Is STI Certification required for current <i>OR</i> intended duties? ☐ Yes ☐ No	Would you be willing to act as a future preceptor to other RN(C)s? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Practice Setting & STI Service Delivery

Please indicate expected clinical activities:

- ☐ Assessment ☐ Diagnosis ☐ Treatment ☐ Pelvic Exams ☐ Partner Notification Support
☐ Prescription

Do you **currently** hold BCCNM certifications in other areas?

- ☐ Reproductive Health ☐ Contraceptive Management ☐ Remote Practice ☐ RN First Call
☐ Opioid Use Disorder ☐ Prescribing ☐ Not Applicable

Please indicate which of the following populations you work with, if any:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| ☐ Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) | ☐ People who are or have been incarcerated (PWAI) | ☐ Immigrants, refugees and newcomers to Canada |
| ☐ Racialized groups | ☐ People who use substances (PWUS) | ☐ People who experience unstable housing |
| ☐ Pregnant people | ☐ Youth (under 25 years of age) | ☐ Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) |
| ☐ Sex workers | ☐ Transgender people | ☐ Other: |

What description(s) best fits your community and/or practice setting?

- ☐ Urban ☐ Rural ☐ Remote ☐ First Nations Community ☐ Outreach ☐ Primary Care ☐ Other:

Please indicate if you work with any of the following health care providers in your practice setting:

- ☐ MDs and/or NPs (full time) ☐ MDs and/or NPs (part time/locum) ☐ RN(C)s ☐ RNs ☐ Other:

Are referral/consult pathways in place for STI care?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please describe how you will refer and consult when individuals require care outside your STI certification scope. If pathways are not in place, please outline any plans your organization has to establish them to support STI certification:

Practice Setting & STI Service Delivery

Please describe the current barriers to accessing STBBI services in your community:

If accepted, please describe your plans to utilize the **full scope** of STI Certification (assessment, testing, diagnosis and treatment) in your practice setting; including how STI certification will address barriers to STBBI services in your community:

Seats in the STI Certification course are allocated, in part, based on the ability of applicants to arrange their preceptorship within their RHA. BCCDC clinical practice experience (CPE) seats are extremely limited; therefore, *applicants must provide rationale* if a preceptorship in your RHA is not possible. The CPE should be completed within 90 days of the theory course completion. **Successfully completing a pelvic exam is a requirement for completing the CPE. Please consider this when identifying a practicum location.**

- ☐ I require a BCCDC placement (describe reasoning below):
- ☐ Pre-arranged in RHA (describe plans below, including the location you expect to complete your CPE):

Employer (to be completed in full by employer/supervisor)		
Name of employer:	Name of Facility:	
Street address:	City:	Postal code:
Does the applicant require STI Certification for their current or planned role? ☐ Yes ☐ No	Will the applicant be support to practice to full scope upon completion? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Please confirm the following operational support will be provided for the applicant: ☐ Protected work time to complete the online theory component (approx. 4- 6 hours/week) ☐ Support to attend and complete the 18-hour clinical practice experience		
☐ The applicant requires STI Certification for their current or intended duties ☐ The clinical setting allows the applicant to perform: • STI assessment • Testing and diagnosis • Treatment and follow-up ☐ The organization will be able to support BCCNM's requirements for maintaining STI Certification: • Maintain recent clinical experience and provide at least one course of care or treatment, which includes performance of a restricted activity, for each certification every three years • Maintain competence in area(s) of certification and engage in continuing professional development • Support at least one learning goal related to the area of certification in their professional development plan and evaluation of learning ☐ If the applicant needs to withdraw from the program, or is unable to complete due to other commitments the employer will notify the STI course coordinator as soon as possible to ensure appropriate follow-up and program administration		

Employer (to be completed in full by employer/supervisor)		
By signing below, I am confirming that the RN applying for the STI Online Certification Program is required to have STI-Certification for their current role and will be utilizing the full scope of STI Certification upon completion.		
Supervisor name:	Supervisor title:	Supervisor signature:
Supervisor email:		Supervisor phone:
Supervisor comments:		

Consent and Release (to be signed by applicant)

By signing below, I consent that the BC Centre for Disease Control may release my information and my results to my employer and the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives concerning the STI Certification Education Program.

Applicant name and title:	Applicant Signature:	Date (yyyy/mm/dd):
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____