Program Approval Framework: An Introduction

May 2016
Overview

- Legislative responsibilities
- Current processes
- Trends and Challenges
- Change
- Review
- Program Approval Framework
- Intended Outcomes
- What’s Next
Regulation in Nursing Education

- Council’s authority to approve programs
- Entry-to-practice requirement
- Importance of nursing education
- Assurance of members’ educational preparation to practise competently in Ontario
## Current Processes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Approval</th>
<th>RN</th>
<th>RPN</th>
<th>NP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approval body</td>
<td>CASN</td>
<td>CNO</td>
<td>CNO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program reviewer(s)</td>
<td>External</td>
<td>Internal</td>
<td>External</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program review frequency (years)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last process review by the College</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trends & Challenges

- Quality initiatives in education
- Increasing numbers of new nursing programs
- Public safety and transparency
The Need for Change

- Gather evidence to build on a common approach
- Clear expectations for program approval
- Sustainable over time
Comprehensive Review

- Literature review
- Jurisdictional review
- Accreditation review
- Review outside of nursing
- Stakeholder feedback
Purposes of New Approval Approach

- Supports Council’s approval authority and decisions
- Regulatory-focused standards for measure
- Structure, process and outcome evaluation model
- Comprehensive evaluation that includes a monitoring component
- Applicable to all nursing programs in Ontario
Standards

Standard I: Program Structure
  ▪ Policies, Governance structure

Standard II: Program Curriculum
  ▪ Competencies and evaluation mechanisms

Standard III: Program Outcomes
  ▪ Knowledge, skill and judgment
Program Approval Framework
Intended Outcomes

- A common approval framework
- It’s consistently applied to all nursing programs
- It’s transparent
- It’s sustainable over time
- Supports Council’s approval authority and decision making
What’s Ahead?

Stakeholder engagement
  ▪ Validation Survey

Development:
  ▪ Evaluation design
  ▪ Evaluation blueprint
  ▪ Evaluation tools