

COLLEGE OF NURSES OF ONTARIO'S Academic Reference Group

News to Use: October 2024

What is the Academic Reference Group?

The Academic Reference Group is made up of academic partners and representatives of the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) who share information and collaborate on nursing regulatory issues of mutual interest and concern.

The group includes 12 Ontario nursing educators who have volunteered to represent all nursing programs in the province.

The group's goal is to offer an opportunity for discussion and collaboration on regulatory issues of importance to both educators and CNO.

Welcome

We appreciate your time and thank you for your continued engagement as a member of the Academic Reference Group.

New Director of Professional Practice

On June 4, Maya Nikoloski joined CNO as Director, Professional Practice. Maya is a Registered Nurse who has held progressive leadership positions in professional practice and education. She will be joining our meeting on Monday, Oct. 28th, 2024.

Program Approval

At the September meeting, Council gave preliminary approval to a new French RPN to BScN program, using the Nursing Program Transformation Initiative (NPTI) pathway for admission. The list of [approved nursing programs](#) has been updated based on Council's decisions.

CNO expects to review a few more new programs throughout 2024–2025. To start the [preliminary approval](#) process, please email [Donna Rawlin](#), Education Team Lead, about your intent to offer a new program(s) at least one year before starting the program.

Registration Exams

CNO has recently shared Q3 2024 REx-PN and NCLEX-RN exam reports. You also would have received your program's test plan blueprint results for 2023, in June. If you have any difficulty accessing any of these exam reports, please contact [Sean Knight](#).

If you wish to meet with us to discuss your exam results, please contact the Education Consultant assigned to your program and/or [Donna Rawlin](#), Education Team Lead.

Nurse Practitioner Regulation Framework Implementation Plan Project

CNO is collaborating with the Canadian Council for Registered Nurse Regulators (CCRNRR) to implement a proposed national framework for NPs that aims to create consistency across Canada in entry-level education, national entry-level exam and registration requirements.

At CNO's September Council meeting, Council approved circulating proposed amendments to NP regulations under the *Nursing Act, 1991*, to registrants and other system partners for 60 days. If the proposed regulations are approved by the Ministry of Health, the changes would remove the current NP specialty certificates and streamline the registration of NPs into one single classification. The proposed changes do not change an NP's accountability to practice within their scope and competencies.

GROUP MEMBERS

We encourage you to share your feedback with any member of the Academic Reference Group:

Annie Berthiaume
Collège Boréal

Mariève Chartrand
Collège La Cité

Wendy Ellis
George Brown College

Lisa-Anne Hagerman
Conestoga College

Kathryn Halverson
Brock University

Erin Kennedy
Western University

Kumaran Mahathevan
Centennial College

June Raymond
Cambrian College

Alison Thompson
Lakehead University

Katherine Trip
University of Toronto

Neshma Dhanani
College of Nurses of Ontario

Nathalie Peladeau
College of Nurses of Ontario

Donna Rawlin
College of Nurses of Ontario

Irene Wu-Lau
College of Nurses of Ontario

CNO is collecting feedback on the draft regulations from Sept. 26, 2024, to Nov. 24, 2024. Visit our [consultation page](#) for more information, including the draft regulation and a summary outlining proposed changes.

Recent project activities and updates:

- 2024 Practice Analysis report will be available later this fall
 - practicing NPs from across country now working on blueprint
 - goal is to have NP Exam Blueprint by early 2025
 - working toward the 2026 new NP national exam timeline
- Town Hall meeting Sept. 5th, 2024
 - engagement with around 140 NPs and system partners
 - discussion focused on the impact to current NPs as it relates to legacy planning, continuing competence, labour mobility, role clarity and project timelines
 - The Town Hall recording and related questions will be posted on our website shortly

For more information on the Nurse Practitioner Regulation Framework Implementation Plan Project (NPR-FIPP), please visit our CNO [webpage](#) outlining the national work, key milestones, engagement opportunities and frequently asked questions.

Nurse Practitioner Scope of Practice Changes

The Ministry of Health has been consulting CNO about potential NP scope of practice changes. These include:

- Ordering and Applying Electricity:
 - to treat heart conditions using defibrillation (without any limitations) and for transcutaneous cardiac pacing
 - for cardiac pacemaker therapy to treat heart conditions
 - for electrocoagulation
- Completing and Signing the Mandatory Blood Testing Forms:
 - signing mandatory blood testing forms for an applicant that must apply to have another person's blood tested for specific infectious diseases, if they have come into contact with their bodily fluids
- Amending General regulation to remove the limiting circumstances of when NPs can certify death

The public and other system partners were invited to provide feedback on the proposed scope changes until Oct. 25th.

In addition to these proposed scope changes, CNO has asked the ministry to consider authorizing NPs to:

- order nerve conduction studies and electromyography
- order nuclear medicine tests
- complete mental health forms
- order restraints in hospitals

We will keep you posted on outcomes of these consultations as more information becomes available.

RN Scope of Practice Changes

Public and other system partners were invited to give feedback on the proposed scope of practice change to authorize RNs to complete and sign a Medical Certificate of

Death under very specific circumstances. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

RN Prescribing

As a reminder, to become authorized to prescribe medications as an RN in the General Class in Ontario, RNs must complete a [CNO approved prescribing education program](#). To support RN Prescribing, CNO continues to update practice resources with input from key partners, including approved RN prescribing programs. The [RN Prescribing Medication List](#) has been added for RN prescribers and employers. For more information, visit our [webpage on RN prescribing](#).

Artificial Intelligence in Nursing Education

Given the rise of healthcare technologies, CNO is exploring artificial intelligence (AI) use in nursing education programs and practice settings. Carlyn Craig, Strategy Consultant, will join the Academic Reference Group to get input from academic partners about:

- a clear definition of AI
- how academic institutions and the nursing profession use AI and how they might use AI in the future
- how CNO might regulate nurses using AI from the perspective of each regulatory function
- risks and improvement plans for AI use by nurses

If you have any questions about the AI initiative, please contact [Carlyn Craig](#).

New Practice Resources

The Discontinuing or Declining to Provide Care [webcast](#) is now available and offers an overview of the newest [practice standard](#). If you have a question about this standard and its application to practice, please contact CNO's Practice Quality team by completing the [online form](#).

Quality Assurance

On September 23rd, nurses were chosen for Quality Assurance (QA) Assessment through a random and risk-based selection. If selected for QA Assessment, nurses are contacted by email, using the email on file in [Maintain Your Membership](#). More information about the QA Program, and what nurses are asked to do when selected, is available on our [Quality Assurance Assessment webpage](#).

ARG Membership Recruitment

CNO continues to recruit new members for a three-year term. We are targeting program representatives from diverse areas across the province that are not represented already on the ARG committee. This approach maintains an even representation among colleges and universities, program type and geographic region. [Learn more](#) about CNO's recruitment for new members. CNO extends a big thank you to all current ARG members for their ongoing participation and support. Your involvement helps inform our regulatory role and ensures Ontario nursing education program graduates are ready to practice safely and competently.

Council Updates

Read the [Council Meeting Minutes](#). (September 2024 Council minutes pending)

Please share this update with other nursing educators at your school.