

# COLLEGE OF NURSES OF ONTARIO'S Academic Reference Group

News to Use: June 2026

## Program Approval

At the June meeting, CNO Council approved all entry-level programs based on their recently completed annual and comprehensive reviews. Please contact us at [education@cnomail.org](mailto:education@cnomail.org), if you have not received your program's approval status notification following the Council meeting, or if there are changes to your programs' primary contacts.

The list of approved nursing programs can be found on our [website](#). As a reminder, if you are planning any changes to your existing nursing program, or wish to start a new program, please contact us at [education@cnomail.org](mailto:education@cnomail.org) to start preliminary approval process, at least one year before the program changes begin.

## Registration Exams

CNO has recently shared the 2026 Q1 reports for REx-PN and NCLEX-RN exams. If academic programs have any difficulty accessing these reports or wish to speak to an Education Consultant about your exam results, please contact us at [education@cnomail.org](mailto:education@cnomail.org).

## New Educational Tool - Social Media: Reflect Before You Post

CNO has released a new educational tool, [Social Media: Reflect Before You Post](#) to support nurses in navigating professional responsibilities in today's digital environment.

Social media offers opportunities to share knowledge, advocate for change and connect with others, but it also comes with important professional accountabilities. This tool highlights how a nurse's online presence, whether personal or professional, reflects their commitment to safe, ethical and respectful practice. Through practical guidance and reflective questions, the tool helps nurses:

- Understand key considerations when using social media
- Connect their online activities to CNO practice standards and professional expectations
- Strengthen their ability to make thoughtful, accountable decisions before posting

This new tool further supports nurses' application through case scenarios and strategies to promote safe and ethical social media use in practice.

## National RN & RPN ELC Revision Project

The national Registered Nurse (RN) and Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) entry-level competencies (ELCs) are undergoing a scheduled five-year review led by Canadian Council of

Registered Nurse Regulators (CCRNRR) and Canadian Council for Practical Nurse Regulators (CCPNR), with support from all jurisdictions and coordination by an external consultant.

A key milestone in the revision process was the national ELC validation survey, which took place in April across jurisdictions throughout Canada. Nurses were invited to participate in the survey to validate the proposed updates to the RN and RPN competencies, helping to inform how future nurses are educated to provide safe, quality care in Ontario and across the country. Nationally, 25,761 RNs and RPNs responded to the survey. The average completion rate was 44.2%. In Ontario, approximately 11,245 RNs and RPNs completed the survey and shared their feedback and insights on the proposed revisions.

Over the coming weeks, the National Steering Committees will review the survey findings and provide final recommendations as the project moves toward finalizing the updated RN and RPN entry-level competencies. Stay tuned for further updates!

### **Single NP Classification to be Implemented on July 1, 2026**

Effective July 1, 2026, CNO will be moving to a single Nurse Practitioner (NP) classification in Ontario. This means that current Ontario NP registrants with NP-Adult, NP-Pediatrics and NP-Primary Health Care registration certificates will be automatically transitioned to a single classification (as NP) without having to complete further education, examinations and training. NPs can and will continue to deliver care with their current patient populations and within current scopes of practice. Removing the need for a population-specific certificate allows the NP, if needed, to work more flexibly, potentially increasing patient access to qualified health care providers.

In April 2026, CNO hosted a virtual webinar on a single NP classification. The [recording](#) is now available for those interested and who could not attend. To support NPs with the transition to a single NP class, CNO has also developed and launched new Quality Assurance resources for NPs, including several new sample learning plans NPs can use if they wish to expand their practice to include new settings or patient populations.

For more information on the national NP regulation project, please join us for a Coffee Chat on July 8, 2026, and visit our [CNO webpage](#) outlining the national work, key milestones, engagement opportunities and frequently asked questions.

### **Did You Know?**

CNO's Education team supports academics with presentations about nursing regulation, standards of nursing practice, and related educational content for students. If your organization would like to arrange a virtual or in-person presentation, please contact the Education team at [education@cnomail.org](mailto:education@cnomail.org) for more information.

### **Council Updates**

For more information, please check our website: [Council Meeting Minutes](#).

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