

COLLEGE OF NURSES OF ONTARIO'S Employer Reference Group

CNO News to Use

June 11, 2025

Regulatory Changes and Scope Updates

Interjurisdictional nurse licensure (INL)

CNO has been working towards [implementing INL: a national initiative led by the Canadian Nurse Regulators Collaborative \(CNRC\)](#) to enhance labour mobility of nurses in Canada by enabling nurses to maintain registration in multiple Canadian jurisdictions and practice across Canada, while supporting patient safety.

On June 4, 2025, CNO Council considered feedback from registrants and system partners and approved the proposed fee by-law changes that would enable INL registrants who register with CNO as their host jurisdiction to receive a 25% rebate of the annual fee. Later this month, CNO will implement system changes to operationalize INL, enabling nurses who wish to practice in multiple jurisdictions to register with CNO as INL registrants.

Scope of practice changes

As of July 1, 2025, the following scope of practice changes for Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and Registered Nurses (RNs) will come into effect to improve access to care.

NPs will be able to:

- Order and apply a defibrillator
- Order and apply a cardiac pacemaker
- Order and apply transcutaneous cardiac pacing
- Order and perform electrocoagulation
(*Regulated Health Professions Act*)

And

- Complete and sign a Medical Certificate of Death, without conditions, permitting them to do so in any circumstance (*Vital Statistics Act, 1990*)

The Ontario government recently introduced Bill 11, *More Convenient Care Act, 2025*. The [Bill proposes changes to the Mandatory Blood Testing Act, 2006](#), to allow NPs to complete certain public health forms on behalf of patients who were possibly exposed to infectious diseases. CNO will communicate updates as these changes come into effect.

RNs will be able to:

- Complete and sign a Medical Certificate of Death in specified circumstances when death is expected. This authority does not apply to RNs working in a hospital setting due to the *Public Hospitals Act* or for Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) related deaths (*Vital Statistics Act, 1990*).

CNO is working with the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement and the Ministry of Health to assist in the development of resources to support this scope change. This includes the development of a Handbook on Medical Certification of Death for RNs and revisions to the existing Handbook on Medical Certification of Death and Stillbirth prepared for physicians, coroners, and coroners assistants, that will include NPs. Training materials are in development and will be made available.

Nurses (RNs and NPs) must ensure they have the appropriate knowledge, skill and judgment and support of their employer before they complete a Certificate of Death. We recognize with all scope changes, organizations and nurses may need time to address training and learning needs to safely implement scope changes. Continue to monitor [CNO's website](#) for further updates, including the release of resources.

Standards, Guidelines and Guidance

Updated standards of practice: Medication administration

The [Scope of Practice](#) and [Medication](#) practice standards have been revised to reflect changes regarding who nurses can receive orders from for medication administration. Nurses can now administer oral and topical medications with a prescription from other regulated health care professionals with prescribing authority, like pharmacists. This fosters a more integrated approach by improving access to care for patients. However, it is important to note that if a medication practice requires a controlled act, such as injections and inhalations, nurses are still limited to only accept orders from a physician, NP, midwife, chiroprapist, dentist or RN prescriber.

Virtual care guideline

CNO is releasing the new *Virtual Care* practice guideline at the end of June. The document replaces the previous *Telepractice* guideline. The document, available in English and French, highlights considerations that are important when providing virtual care to clients, including giving inclusive and culturally safe care. The guideline also includes a definition of virtual care and registration requirements when providing virtual care. When ready, the guideline will be posted on CNO's [Standards and Guidelines](#) webpage, along with knowledge translation tools to support nurses in using the guideline in their practice.

Artificial intelligence guidance

CNO recognizes artificial intelligence (AI) is both already part of nursing practice, and that the AI landscape is rapidly evolving. In response to emerging technological changes, CNO has developed a guidance webpage to help nurses understand what AI is, how it can be used to support their practice and what they need to keep in mind when integrating it into their practice.

CNO will continue to monitor and review AI's role in nursing practice and regulation, focusing on its current application to promote safe and responsible use. As part of this process, CNO will engage employers to understand how different organizations are using AI and explore how CNO can support employers, including what types of learning and practice resources are needed to promote responsible AI use in nursing practice. Continue to monitor CNO's [Educational Tools](#) webpage for guidance on AI and additional resources, as they become available in 2025 and 2026.

Single classification of nurse practitioner framework

CNO is working closely with the Canadian Council of Registered Nurse Regulators (CCRNRR) on a national initiative that will result in changes to Ontario's framework for registering Nurse Practitioners (NPs) by removing the population-specific certificates (NP-Primary Health Care, NP-Paediatrics, NP-Adult) and replacing them with one NP classification.

In April 2025, CNO submitted draft NP regulations (approved by [CNO's Council in March](#) 2025) to government for their review and consideration. CNO continues to engage with the Ministry of Health on

this work and will keep employers, NPs and other system partners updated on transition and implementation timelines toward a proposed launch in 2026.

Below are few details on transition planning and registration of new applicants when the proposed new framework is implemented:

Current Registrants (transition of current NPs into the new framework):

- The proposed changes intend to continue supporting NPs working in the health care system. Current NPs will automatically be transitioned into the single NP classification and will continue working within their training and competence (knowledge, skill and judgment).
- Under the proposed framework, an NP with initial NP education/training in paediatrics or adult populations can only practice with a different patient population (outside of their initial NP education) provided they have the competence and training to do so.

New Applicants:

- If regulation amendments are approved, new applicants will continue to be required to apply to the extended class. New Canadian applicants will be educated based on common NP entry-level competencies. All applicants will take a common national NP entry-level exam and be ready to provide care across the patient's lifespan and practice settings as entry-level NPs. These NP applicants will have the option to work with any patient population and practice setting in the province, within their regulated scope of practice and individual competence.
- For new Canadian NP applicants with a population focus (for example, neonatal NPs), CNO is exploring how best to continue supporting Canadian NP applicants interested in coming to Ontario to help meet our health human resource demands, while maintaining transparency regarding their educational preparation.
- Internationally educated nurses (IENs) would continue to apply to CNO through the application process.

Employers would continue to support NPs working in the health care system through employee orientation, onboarding and training initiatives to the specific practice settings or areas of practice.

For more information on the national NP regulation project, please visit CNO's webpage [outlining the national work](#), key milestones, engagement opportunities and [frequently asked questions](#).

Practice Support Resources

Nurse practitioners authorizing medical cannabis

The NP Q&A on Medical Cannabis has been updated and is available in both [English](#) and [French](#). The key change is the communication that Health Canada monitors misuse of the medical cannabis system in Canada and that NPs may be subject to review by Health Canada to substantiate the amount of medical cannabis authorized.

Discontinuing or declining to provide care for nurse practitioners

This new resource is available in both [English](#) and [French](#) and further supports NPs application of the accountabilities outlined in the [Discontinuing or Declining to Provide Care](#) practice standard.

Did You Know?

CNO's Practice Quality team also supports employers with collaborative presentations about the Standards of Practice and applying them to your specific practice setting. Requests can be made through the [online form](#).

Questions?

If you have any questions about this issue of *CNO News to Use* or nursing practice, please contact CNO's Practice Quality team by completing the [online form](#).