

Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care

Office of the Minister

10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto ON M7A 2C4
Tel. 416 327-4300
Fax 416 326-1571
www.ontario.ca/health

Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée

Bureau du ministre

Édifice Hepburn, 10^e étage
80, rue Grosvenor
Toronto ON M7A 2C4
Tél. 416 327-4300
Télééc. 416 326-1571
www.ontario.ca/sante



JUN 28 2017

HLTC2968IT-2017-143

Megan Sloan
President
College of Nurses of Ontario
101 Davenport Road
Toronto ON M5R 3P1

Dear Ms. Sloan:

I am writing to you about the government's commitment to expand registered nurses' (RN) scope of practice to include prescribing drugs for certain non-complex conditions and to communicate a diagnosis for the purposes of prescribing. This proposed prescribing authority would not extend to controlled drugs and substances.

As you are aware, the government has passed the *Stronger, Healthier Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2017* which, amongst other things, provides the authority for RNs to prescribe drugs in certain circumstances. As is the case with all scope of practice related activities, the College will need to develop the necessary regulations, competencies and educational requirements to operationalize these legislative changes.

I am therefore asking the College to begin the work necessary to enable RN prescribing in order to ensure those services can be delivered safely and competently by RNs as soon as possible. Your College's work would give Ontario's patients significant benefits including more choice in primary care and more timely access to care, particularly in rural and northern communities.

Staff in the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will work with the College to provide supports needed for the development and implementation of the necessary regulation(s). Other health partners will also need to be engaged to ensure that nurses have the supports they need to enable this new authority. Denise Cole, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Health Workforce Planning and Regulatory Affairs Division will be in touch with you shortly to discuss specific timelines.

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Thank you for your continued support of this key government initiative.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister

c: Dr. Bob Bell, Deputy Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Denise Cole, Assistant Deputy Minister
Doris Grinspun, CEO, Registered Nurses Association of Ontario