



COLLEGE OF NURSES
OF ONTARIO
ORDRE DES INFIRMIÈRES
ET INFIRMIERS DE L'ONTARIO

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THE STANDARD OF CARE.

May 5, 2015

The Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Hoskins:

We are writing in response to your letter regarding conversion or reparative therapy. The College of Nurses of Ontario shares your commitment that “*patients receive evidence-based care and that they are treated ethically.*”

The College’s standards of practice provide clear expectations for our members about what is appropriate nursing practice. Several of our standards, particularly the *Nurse-Client Relationship*, *Ethics* and the *Professional Standards*, speak directly to the need for nurses to provide evidence-based care, meet client’s needs and not to impose their personal values on clients. The online learning centre (www.cno.org/learning) and our outreach approach support nurses in understanding and applying these standards in their practice.

As we identify in the attached news release, which was posted on cno.org, sent to nurses via Facebook and will be in the May 5 edition of the College’s digital member magazine *The Standard*, nurses are accountable for meeting the standards in all aspects of their nursing practice.

Our regular surveys of nurses show that they know about the standards and find them applicable to practice. As reported in our letter of January 23rd to John Amodeo on the results of our last survey in 2012:

- 99% of participants were very or somewhat familiar with the College’s standards; and
- 91% of participants found the standards extremely or very applicable to their practice.

The current health regulatory legislation provides a robust framework to support the appropriate care of all Ontarians by regulated health professionals and to address concerns from the public about the care they receive, including conversion therapy.

We are deeply committed to ensuring nurses know their accountability to follow the practice standards and provide ethical, client-centered, evidence-based care to everyone. We believe that this approach is the best means of ensuring that Ontario's nurses do not *"approach a patient's sexual orientation and gender identity as a condition in search of a cure."*

Sincerely,



Anne L. Coghlan, RN, MScN
Executive Director and CEO



Angela Verrier, RPN
President

AC/jh