

June 18, 2018

What is the Academic Reference Group?

The Academic Reference Group is made up of educators 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 10 Ontario nursing educators who have volunteered to represent all nursing programs in the province.

The goal of the group is to provide an opportunity for discussion and collaboration on regulatory issues of importance to both educators and the College of Nurses of Ontario.

New Member

Anne Marie Shin welcomed our new member Dr. Monica Parry from the University of Toronto.

Program Approval

An update on this standing item was provided. The current focus is to streamline and consolidate the indicators and evidence sources, as well as develop outcome indicator 8 (recent graduates rating of their preparation of their practice) and indicator 9 (preceptor rating of student's readiness to practice). CNO has recruited volunteers for an Outcome Indicators Advisory Group, which includes representatives from all nursing categories/classes, academic, service, preceptor and student sectors from across the province. Their first meeting is planned for June 28, 2018. The request for proposal (RFP) process for a vendor to assist with the development of an instrument tool for Indicators 8 and 9 is underway, with a decision expected in early July.

Nursing Practice Scope of Changes

CNO provided an update regarding NP, RN and RPN scope of practice changes. NP prescribing changes, proposed RN prescribing and RPN scope changes were discussed. NPs are now authorized to prescribe diacetylmorphine (heroin) and methadone. The NP programs at the University of Toronto and in the Council of Ontario University Programs in Nursing (COUPN) consortium, as well as the schools that offer the Controlled Drugs and Substances course are integrating prescribing of methadone and diacetylmorphine content into their curriculum by fall 2018. In terms of RN prescribing, focus groups were conducted with various stakeholders regarding the design and delivery of an education program. Findings are being reviewed and integrated. With respect to RPN scope of practice changes, the Minister of Health has decided not to proceed with proposed RPN scope of practice changes at this time. CNO looks forward to working with key stakeholders and the government with regard to future scope of practice changes.

Applicant Portal

An update regarding CNO's new Applicant Portal was provided. Discussion with the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS) and the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) continue, with system testing planned for this summer and an expected launch date for early fall 2018. The electronic verification of course completion (VCC) will not be ready for fall launch, but will be implemented in future when this part of the portal work is completed. **The current manual VCC process completed by nursing programs will continue until further notice.**

GROUP MEMBERS

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

Patricia Brown
Centennial College

Sandra DeLuca
Fanshawe College, Western University

Laura Gedcke-Kerr
Queen's University

Sylvie Larocque
Laurentian University/Université Laurentienne

Michelle Lalonde
University of Ottawa

Paula Mastrilli
George Brown College

Mary McGrory
Humber Institute of Technology & Advance Learning

Monica Parry
University of Toronto

Linda Patrick
University of Windsor

Karen Poole
Lakehead University

Janet Anderson
College of Nurses of Ontario

Farah Ismail
College of Nurses of Ontario

Anne Marie Shin
College of Nurses of Ontario

Donna Rawlin
College of Nurses of Ontario

Laura Jackson
College of Nurses of Ontario

RN Entry-to-Practice (ETP) Revision Updates

An update was provided on the Canadian Council of Registered Nurse Regulators (CCRNRR) revisions of the current RN ETP competencies. Revisions to the document include a role-based model, reduction of the number of competencies, more emphasis on patient safety, language changes and emphasis on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report. A complete draft is expected by August. In September, an online validation survey will be sent to a sample of RN membership in each jurisdiction for feedback.

Future QA Program

CNO presented the Future QA program. Development of this program has started with full implementation expected by 2023. The six-year plan includes time to design and phase-in the different processes, policies and technology for the new program. In the new program all nurses will submit a completed Learning Plan as part of their Annual Membership Renewal. Stakeholder engagement will be a consistent part of this development process. Regular updates will be provided as details become available.

Student Accommodations

Sample case studies were presented as an opportunity for the group to explore the regulatory bodies' role when assessing registration applicants that request accommodation. Each accommodation request is individually considered using documentation such as Requisite Skills and Abilities (RSA) and Professional Practice Standards to guide decision-making in each case.

Updates

PN Exam

The RFP process continues, with an expected decision planned for July. More updates to follow.

French Nursing Meeting

CNO provided updates from a meeting held on May 9 at the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) offices in Ottawa Ontario. The purpose of this meeting was to address French nursing education, specifically registration exams from an academic and regulatory perspective. Discussion included the results of a study that explored the experience of French applicants and faculty. There will be a follow up meeting in the fall.

Exam Reporting to Schools

CNO has revised its process for sending exam information to schools, coordinating the timelines for exam reports. Exam reports will now be sent on a quarterly basis from our Education Administrator.

Administration Points

Proposed dates for 2019 will be sent out in the near future. The next meeting date is scheduled for **Oct. 15, 2018 from 9:30 am -11:30 am**

Please share this update with other nursing educators