

COLLEGE OF NURSES OF ONTARIO'S Academic Reference Group

News to Use: January 2023

What is the Academic Reference Group?

The Academic Reference Group is made up of academic stakeholders 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 12 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.

Welcome back

We appreciate your time and thank you for your continued engagement as a member of the Academic Reference Group.

COVID-19 pandemic updates

CNO continues to update supports for nurses in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please review our [web section](#) for updated information.

Program Approval

At the December 2022 meeting, Council approved one comprehensive program and three new entry level nursing programs. The list of approved nursing programs is found on www.cno.org. CNO will be making recommendations at our June council meeting for annual and comprehensive reviews.

CNO expects to review more new programs throughout 2023. To start the [preliminary approval](#) process, please notify [Katie Dilworth](#), CNO's Manager of Education, of your intent to offer a new program(s) at least one year before commencing the program.

Registration exams

Since the inception of the REX-PN exam, CNO has been sending quarterly results to Practical Nursing (PN) programs and has met with schools who wished to discuss their results. PN programs can expect to receive their first annual test plan results in early 2023.

Baccalaureate Nursing (BN) programs can also expect to receive their NCLEX-RN annual test plan results in early 2023.

Please email [Katie Dilworth](#), CNO's Manager of Education, if you would like to schedule a meeting to discuss your exam results.

NCSBN will be launching a new exam format, Next Generation NCLEX (NGN) effective April 2023. For more information about the changes to the exam and available resources and supports, please check the [NCSBN website](#).

Temporary Class

On October 31, 2022, regulation changes were enacted to enable CNO to register nurses in the Temporary Class who have met all registration requirements except for the education equivalency requirement and completion of the registration exams. These applicants will have successfully completed an approved foundational education

GROUP MEMBERS

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

Renee Berquist
St. Lawrence College

Annie Berthiaume
Collège Boréal

Mariève Chartrand
Collège La Cité

Sandra DeLuca
Fanshawe College, Western University

Wendy Ellis
George Brown College

Erin Kennedy
Western University

Sylvie Larocque
Laurentian University/Université Laurentian

Kumaran Mahathevan
Centennial College

Linda Patrick
University of Windsor

June Raymond
Cambrian College

Alison Thompson
Lakehead University

Katherine Trip
University of Toronto

Anne Marie Shin
College of Nurses of Ontario

Katie Dilworth
College of Nurses of Ontario

Neshma Dhanani
College of Nurses of Ontario

Nathalie Peladeau
College of Nurses of Ontario

Donna Rawlin
College of Nurses of Ontario

Irene Wu-Lau
College of Nurses of Ontario

program in their home jurisdiction. Once registered in the Temporary Class, these new members will practice under terms, conditions and limitations while working towards achieving education equivalency to enable them to register in the General Class.

SPEP (Supervised Practice Experience Partnership)

The [SPEP program](#) was implemented in January 2022, offering eligible applicants the option to complete a supervised practice experience, in Ontario, to meet the evidence of practice requirement. These applicants have met all other registration requirements, including education and exam. In some situations, language proficiency requirements may also be met through SPEP.

Standards Modernization project

On Dec. 7, 2022, CNO Council [approved proposed changes](#) to CNO's current [Code of Conduct](#) to reflect the evolving health care needs of clients and the dynamic nature of the nursing profession. The new, modernized [Code](#) will take effect June 5, 2023, to allow the system time to prepare for the change.

You can read more about this approval on [CNO's News & Announcements webpage](#). A final version of the *Code of Conduct* approved by Council is found on [CNO's Code of Conduct webpage](#).

We appreciate the comprehensive and thoughtful feedback from your respective organizations and staff. Your feedback helped to refine the final *Code of Conduct* and highlight the additional educational resources needed to support implementation. Please continue to monitor [CNO's Code of Conduct webpage](#) in 2023, where we will develop additional educational resources to support the Code's implementation for nurses and other stakeholders.

Nurse Practitioner ELC revisions

Canadian nursing regulators reviewed and revised the current Nurse Practitioner (NP) entry level competencies (ELCs) as part of a [national project](#) to implement a new model for NP regulation in Canada. The new NP ELCs were reviewed and approved by the CCRNR Board in Fall 2022 and shared at CNO's Council meeting in December 2022.

Entry level competencies are revised every five years to reflect evolving population needs, the health system and current NP practice. The recent revisions were informed by an environmental scan, literature review and extensive stakeholder consultation. The updated ELCs appropriately reflect the foundational knowledge, skills, and judgment required for NPs to practice safely and ethically in today's health system. They also reflect inter-jurisdictional consistency to support workforce mobility across Canada.

While the new NP ELCs have been approved, **they are not yet 'in effect'**. An implementation date has not been determined. Over the coming weeks, CNO will be engaging with NP programs to determine the process for implementing the new NP ELCs into their curricula.

RPN scope of practice changes

The Ontario government is reviewing proposed changes under the *Nursing Act, 1991* to expand the scope of practice for RPNs. You can see the changes on the [Regulatory Registry](#), a government website that shares information on new,

amended or approved regulations. More information to follow as details become available.

New Jurisprudence Exam

Since the launch of the [Jurisprudence Exam](#) in January 2013, CNO has continued to test the knowledge and understanding of applicants (RN, RPN and NP) on aspects of the law, regulation, by-laws, practice standards and scope of practice. We want to ensure all registrants entering the nursing profession have the knowledge, skills and judgment to provide legal, ethical and culturally safe care.

CNO will be changing the exam format to a Jurisprudence Learning Module and Test. We anticipate a launch at the end of June 2023. An online, remotely accessible, interactive learning module and test will support an applicant's understanding of the law, legal obligations and health professional responsibilities and accountabilities to the public. In October 2022, we obtained input from academic institutions and experts on our framework and content development for our new exam. Thank you for your input and feedback.

The new exam will focus on five areas: Nursing Regulation, Scope of Practice, Professional Responsibility and Accountability, CNO Practice Standards, Quality Assurance and Continuing Competence. We will continue to inform, communicate and engage with stakeholders as we develop this work. Stay tuned to learn about a CNO information session with academics in March 2023 regarding the new Jurisprudence Exam. There will be more opportunity to discuss this exam at the next Academic Reference Group meeting in April 2023.

Quality Assurance


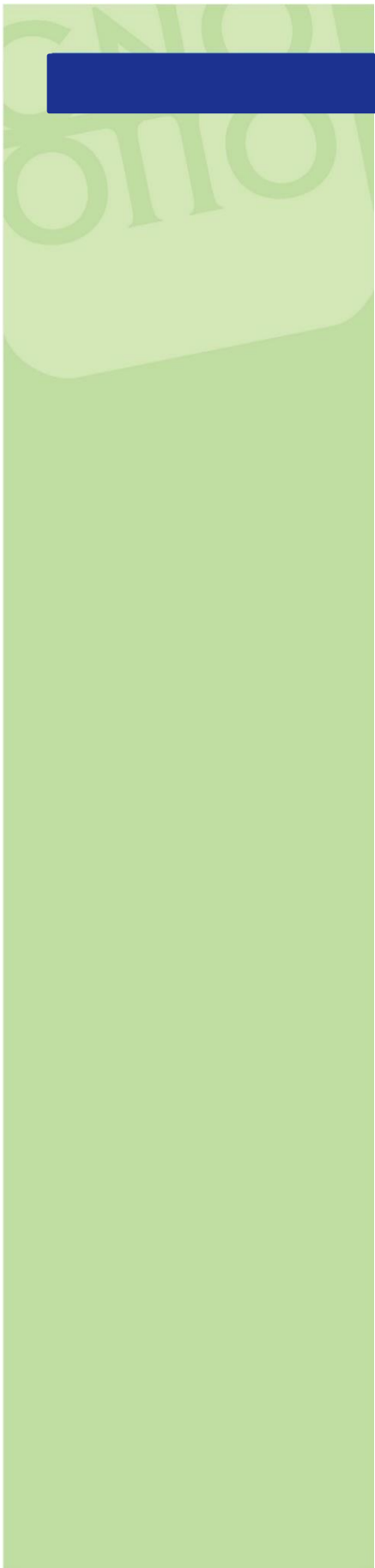
CNO is updating its Quality Assurance (QA) Program in the coming months to support greater relevance to everyday nursing practice and increase the reach of the program. As part of quality improvement at CNO, we are making updates to our QA Program. This includes implementing a user-friendly technology platform, a Learning Management System (LMS) and process improvements to better support nurses going through QA. Informed by feedback from nurses, we will continue our supportive approach to QA and further promote CNO's standards of practice and peer coaching.

As educators, CNO counts on you to instill QA principles, the importance of self-reflection and continual learning with your students. All nurses have an accountability to participate in QA annually and to complete QA activities when selected by CNO. Reflective practice further strengthens our nursing workforce by enhancing their practice through quality improvement.

More details about the changes to the QA Program will be provided to you and our other stakeholders in the next few months. You can find QA resources and access our Learning Plan template on [CNO's QA webpage](#). If you have questions about the QA Program, please email at QAassessment@CNOmail.org and we will be happy to support you.

ARG membership recruitment

CNO is excited to announce that we are recruiting new ARG members for a three-year term starting April 2023. Information about CNO's recruitment for new members can be found on the [Academic Reference Group: Recruiting new members webpage](#). We are sad to say good-bye to three long-term members and wish to thank them for their valued expertise and contribution. We extend a big thank you to all ARG members for



their ongoing participation and support. Your involvement helps inform our regulatory role and ensure Ontario nursing education program graduates are ready to practice safely and competently.

Council updates

You can read the December 2022 Council meeting materials [here](#).

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

Want to know more about any of these topics?

You can find more information on CNO's [Education](#) webpage.

Or email [Program Approval](#) with your questions.