

COLLEGE OF NURSES OF ONTARIO'S Academic Reference Group

News to Use: April 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

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

The list of approved nursing programs is found on [cno.org](#). CNO will be making recommendations at our June Council meeting for annual and comprehensive nursing program 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

CNO has sent REx-PN results for 2022, which included a breakdown of annual PN program results according to the test plan. We have been meeting with programs to review their annual results and welcome new requests to discuss your program-specific exam results with your PN team.

Baccalaureate Nursing (BN) programs can also expect to receive their first NCLEX-RN annual test plan results in the next few months.

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

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) launched an enhanced NCLEX-RN exam called the Next Generation NCLEX (NGN) in April 2023. The NGN exam remains a Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) with questions added to test the writer's clinical judgment, which reflects current nursing practice. For more information about the exam changes and available resources, please check the [NCSBN website](#) and [CNO's website](#).

Nurse Practitioner ELC revisions

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

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

Wendy Ellis
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Lisa-Anne Hagerman
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CNO continues to engage with NP programs to discuss implementation of the new NP ELCs into their NP program curricula. The revised NP ELC document will soon be posted on CNO's website with a “**not yet in effect**” watermark.

Regulatory changes: Proposed expansion of nursing scope of practice

The Ontario government is reviewing proposed changes under the *Nursing Act, 1991* to expand the scope of practice for all nurses. The purpose is to increase access to timely health care services for patients, as well as reduce barriers to patient care.

RPN scope of practice change - RPNs, who have the competence, will be able to independently initiate and perform specific controlled acts without an order. While nurses may have access to perform or initiate controlled acts, it may not be possible in certain practice settings without an order because of legislation or facility policies (for example, hospital settings).

RN prescribing - RNs who have the competence will be able to prescribe medication and communicate diagnoses for the purpose of prescribing. RNs will require additional Council-approved education to be authorized to prescribe in specific practice settings where policies allow this expanded scope of practice.

NP scope of practice - The Ministry of Health is exploring the expansion of NP scope of practice, specifically order and apply defibrillation, certify death, order and apply electrocardiograms in all situations, order non-invasive electroencephalograms, and order nuclear medicine procedures. If government approves the regulations, and as more information becomes available, CNO will communicate NP role-related changes and accountabilities.

“As of Right” legislation

In February, government tabled a new bill which, if approved, would amend a number of pieces of legislation: [Bill 60](#), called *Your Health Act, 2023*. One of the changes would be to amend the *Nursing Act, 1991* (changes propose new regulation-making authority related to exempting a person from provisions related to restricted titles and holding oneself out as a person qualified to practice nursing in Ontario). This proposal relates to a previous [announcement from government](#) related to the “as of right” rules.

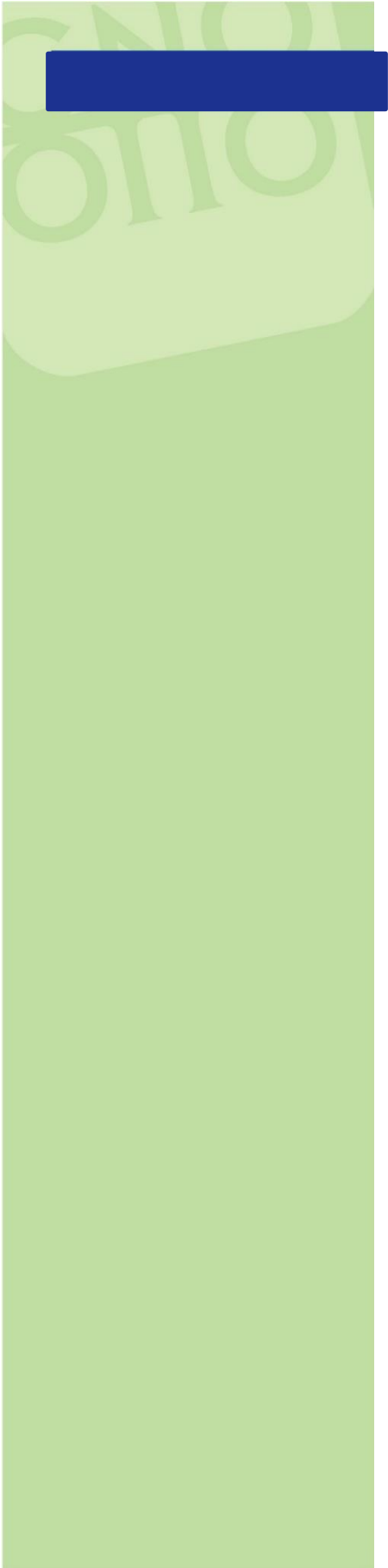
As of April 11, 2023, Bill 60 is being debated at third reading. Please see [here](#) for updated status. CNO provided an [initial response](#) when “as of right” was announced and also [responded](#) to Bill 60 once it was tabled.

Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID)

On Feb. 2, 2023, the Government of Canada introduced legislation to extend the temporary exclusion of eligibility for MAID where a person's sole medical condition is a mental illness until March 17, 2024 (a one-year extension). They noted this proposed delay will allow more time for the dissemination and uptake of key resources under development (for example, MAID practice standards and the Canadian MAID Curriculum) by the medical and nursing communities. See the Government of Canada's [news release](#) for further information. You can find more information on the [MAID section](#) on [cno.org](#).

Standards Modernization project: Code of Conduct

In December 2022, CNO Council approved the modernized [Code of Conduct](#) to reflect the evolving health care needs of clients and the dynamic nature of the nursing profession. The revised Code will take effect June 5, 2023, to allow time for systems to prepare for the change. CNO is currently developing resources to support the application of the Code in practice. Please stay tuned to [cno.org](#) for additional resources on the Code of Conduct.



The revised Code has resulted in duplication of content across multiple practice standards. After a review of all CNO practice standards against the new Code and to meet the objectives of modernizing standards, CNO is proposing the retirement of [Professional Standards](#) and [Ethics; a](#) decision will be made by CNO Council in June. In the interim, CNO continues to seek feedback on the development of resources and educational tools to support nurses and academics if this change occurs.

Scope of Practice Standard

As part of the Standards Modernization project, CNO is developing a new practice standard focused on the legislated scope of nursing practice. With the proposed regulatory changes to expand nursing scope of practice, such as RPN initiation and RN prescribing, this work is being prioritized to reflect these system changes and support safe nursing practice in Ontario. Moving ahead with the development of this standard will ensure readiness when the proposed scope of practice changes come into effect.

Consistent with the overarching principles of the [Modernizing Standards](#) project, CNO will be reviewing existing standards, guidelines and resources to reduce duplication and align with the objectives of a modern standard: accessible, relevant, and defensible. As part of this work, relevant content will be integrated from existing standards and guidelines, such as the [Decisions about Procedures and Authority](#) standard, the [Authorizing Mechanisms](#) guideline, and the [RN and RPN Practice: The Client, the Nurse and the Environment](#) guideline. CNO will continue to gather feedback from nurses and stakeholders on the draft standard through a public survey planned for April or May. CNO is planning to bring a draft of this new standard to June Council for approval.

New Jurisprudence Exam

Since the launch of the Jurisprudence Exam in January 2013, CNO has continued to test the knowledge and understanding of applicants (RPN/RN/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, skill and judgment to provide legal, ethical and culturally safe care.

At CNO's March Council, the new Jurisprudence exams were approved with an effective date of July 17, 2023. The new Jurisprudence is an online, remotely accessible, interactive learning module and test that will support an applicant's understanding of the law, legal obligations and health professional responsibilities and accountabilities to the public. We will continue to inform, communicate and engage with stakeholders as we develop this work. Learn more about the new Jurisprudence exams on cno.org or in CNO's March 2023 [The Standard](#).

Temporary Class

Temporary Class registrants are permitted to practice nursing (with terms, conditions and limitations) while completing their education and exam registration requirements for the General Class. Applicants applying for a Temporary Class Certificate of Registration must have an offer of employment from an approved organization described in Schedule 1 (Ontario Regulation 275/94) of the *Nursing Act, 1991*. To learn more, please review our [information for employers](#). IENs applying to CNO's Temporary Class may need further education to meet their outstanding competency gaps and meet the education equivalency requirement. Information about [competency-based gap-filler programs and courses](#) can be found on CNO's website. In addition, CNO's [Temporary Class Learning Module](#) provides an overview of accountabilities for nursing practice in Ontario. It is designed to help applicants better understand the legal and ethical issues, and the professional accountabilities of the nursing profession.

Quality Assurance

CNO is updating its Quality Assurance (QA) Program to support greater relevance to everyday nursing practice and increase the reach of the program. This includes implementing a new, more user-friendly technology platform and process improvements to better support nurses going through the QA Assessment. Informed by feedback from nurses, we will continue building our supportive approach to QA and further promote CNO's Standards of Practice and peer coaching. More details about the changes to the QA Program will be provided over the next few months. QA resources and access to the Learning Plan template can be found on [CNO's QA webpage](#).

ARG membership recruitment

CNO is welcoming two new members to the ARG committee for a three-year term: Lisa-Anne Hagerman and Kathryn Halverson. We continue to recruit new members for a three-year term starting in 2023. We are targeting university-based program representatives, from diverse areas across the province with no current institutional representation on the ARG committee to maintain equitable representation between colleges and universities. [Learn more](#) about CNO's recruitment for new members.

CNO extends a big thank you to all new and current ARG members for their ongoing participation and support. Your involvement helps inform our regulatory role and ensures Ontario nursing education program graduates are ready to practice safely and competently.

Council updates

You can read the March 2023 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.