

COLLEGE OF NURSES OF ONTARIO'S Academic Reference Group

News to Use: June 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.

Program Approval

At the June meeting, Council approved all entry-level programs based on the recently completed annual and comprehensive reviews, along with two new nursing programs which were preliminarily approved. Please let us know if you have not received your program's approval status notification following the Council meeting. The list of [approved nursing programs](#) has been updated based on Council's decisions.

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

Registration exams

CNO has shared Q1 2023 reports for REx-PN results with PN programs. And we recently sent 2022 Annual REx-PN results, which included a breakdown of PN program performance according to the test plan. We have met with many PN programs to review their annual reports and welcome new requests to discuss program-specific exam results with your PN team.

Baccalaureate Nursing (BN) programs should have recently received their first NCLEX-RN annual test plan results for 2022. We will arrange meetings with individual BN programs to review their annual results in the next few weeks. If you have any difficulty accessing your report, please contact [Sean Knight](#).

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.

As a reminder, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) launched the 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 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

GROUP MEMBERS

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

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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.

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 is available in [English](#) and [French](#) with a “**not in effect – implementation date to be determined**” watermark.

Regulatory scope of practice changes

The Ontario government is reviewing 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 Initiation Scope Expansion - The Ontario government has approved regulations granting RPNs the authority to initiate, independently, certain controlled acts in certain practice settings without needing an order from an authorized health care professional. The regulations take effect **July 1, 2023**.

The authority to perform these controlled acts is not new. RPNs could always do this action with an order. The difference is that RPNs who have the relevant competence can now initiate these procedures without an order. While nurses may have access to perform or initiate controlled acts, it may not be possible in certain practice contexts without an order because of legislation or facility policies (for example, hospital settings). Please see our [webpage](#) for further information, including our new [Scope of Practice](#) standard that supports this change.

RN prescribing – In the near future, 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. Please check the [website](#) for regular updates.

Standards Modernization Project

New Code of Conduct - On Dec. 7, 2022, Council approved proposed changes to CNO's [Code of Conduct](#) (the Code) to reflect the evolving health care needs of clients and the dynamic nature of the nursing profession. The revised Code took effect **June 5, 2023**.

To support nurses and the health system with the application of Principle 2 in the Code, CNO has created a series of [learning modules](#) which outlines the actions and behaviors nurses can take to provide inclusive and culturally safe care. The three core behaviors of this principle include: self-reflection, creating safer health care experiences and training and education. Additional culturally safe care resources are available [here](#).

In developing the Code, CNO reviewed existing practice standards and integrated relevant content in the Code. After reviewing all standards against the revised Code, and to meet the objectives of standards modernization, Council approved the retirement of *Professional Standards and Ethics* at the June Council meeting. To support this change in practice, CNO will develop additional resources and educational tools informed by nurses and stakeholders. These **changes take effect July 1, 2023**.

Scope of Practice Standard - On June 8, 2023, Council approved a [Scope of Practice](#) standard that outlines nurses' legislative accountabilities and other key

requirements nurses need to consider when deciding whether to perform an activity for safe client care. Three main concepts described in the standard are Authority, Context and Competence. The *Scope of Practice* standard takes effect on **July 1, 2023**.

The practice standard includes information from the *Nursing Act, 1991* and the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*. It also integrates key information and replaces CNO's practice standard, *Decisions About Procedures and Authority* and CNO guidelines: *Authorizing Mechanisms* and *RN and RPN Practice: The Client, the Nurse and the Environment*. CNO will be developing additional resources to support nurses and employers with this change. Please continue to check our [website](#) for updates.

New Jurisprudence Exam

CNO's Jurisprudence Examination assesses an applicant's knowledge and understanding of the laws, regulations, by-laws, practice standards and guidelines that govern the nursing profession in Ontario. Beginning July 17, 2023, this exam will have a new format.

The new exam will require the completion of an interactive "open-book" e-learning module and a multiple-choice exam. "Open book" exam means that applicants may use paper, electronic or online resources (for example, laws, regulations, CNO's practice standards) while writing the exams. The new exam is available online and may be completed remotely in either English or French. The exam is available 24/7. Applicants will still be required to pay a fee of \$40 (CDN), plus applicable taxes, to write the jurisprudence exam. Applicants will have unlimited attempts to successfully complete this exam requirement.

The new Jurisprudence Exam will replace the existing format and become available to applicants on **July 17, 2023**. For more details, please check our [website](#).

Modernization of Applicant Assessment

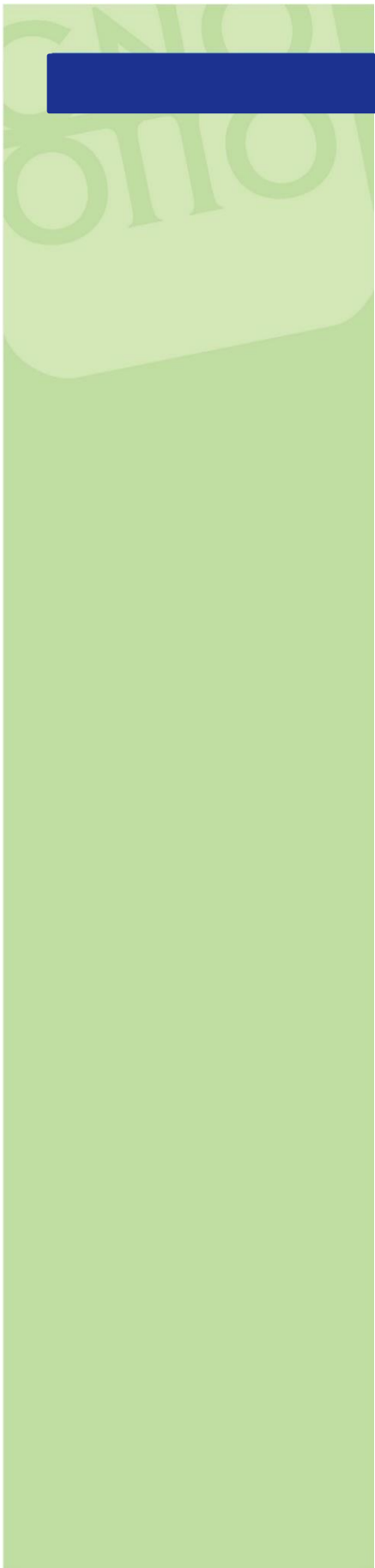
On June 8, 2023, Council supported a proposal to enable CNO to begin work to draft registration regulations changes that, if approved by the government of Ontario, will result in more timely registration for internationally educated applicants. Specifically, the proposed changes will enable applicants to meet the education requirement if they complete relevant nursing education recognized or approved in any jurisdiction. Additionally, under the new regulations, if approved, applicants will be required to complete a course to support their successful integration into Ontario's health care system. For more details, please check our [website](#).

Quality Assurance

CNO has updated the [Quality Assurance \(QA\) Program](#) to support greater relevancy 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 QA Assessment. The first group of nurses using the new platform will be randomly selected in June 2023.

You can find our QA resources and access the Learning Plan template on CNO's [QA webpage](#). If you have any questions about the QA Program, please email CNO at QAassessment@CNOmail.org for additional support.

ARG membership recruitment



CNO continues 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 June 2023 Council meeting materials](#).

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