Controlled Substances and the Education Requirement

January 2017 Teleconference
What are Controlled Substances?

Restricted by federal law

High risk of misuse, addiction, diversion

Treat a wide variety of conditions
Controlled substances

- Medical Marijuana
- Narcotics (e.g. Morphine)
- Benzodiazepines (e.g. Diazepam)
- Controlled Drugs (e.g. Testosterone)
Federal and Provincial

*Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*
- Changes in 2012
- Prohibitions on prescribing some drugs

*Nursing Act, 1991*
- Prohibitions on prescribing, selling and compounding controlled substances
What regulatory mechanisms are required to support safe, effective and ethical practice?
Analysis of federal and provincial legislation
Comprehensive literature review
Review of other regulatory bodies
NP survey
Key stakeholders consulted
Assessment of the risk of harm

Informed by Evidence
National Harmonization

- Gathered evidence
- Identified education competencies
- Identified courses
- Agreed upon next steps
Ontario NPs frequently assess clients with conditions that may require controlled substances\textsuperscript{1}

Ontario NPs frequently ask physicians to prescribe for their clients\textsuperscript{1}

Currently:

- clients not receiving care
- care delayed
- costs to system
Risks to the public

Misuse, addiction and diversion

Canada is second largest per capita consumer of opioids²

Ontario has highest rate of opioid use in Canada³

From 2005 to 2011, 250% increase in ER visits in Ontario due to opioid withdrawal, overdose, intoxication, psychosis, harmful use³
Proposed Regulation Changes

- Enabling NPs to prescribe controlled substances
- Requiring education to acquire competencies
Enabling the College to post and remove information about the education requirement
Courses approved by Council

Athabasca University:
Prescription and Management of Controlled Drugs and Substances course

University of Ottawa:
Prescribing Narcotics and Controlled Substances course
Deadline: March 10, 2017

Regulation timeline set by Minister

Processing time with Universities

Accessible courses
- Ontario NPs for professional development
- NPs who moved from another Canadian jurisdictions
- Council approved courses retroactively
- Detailed information in FAQs at cno.org
When regulations come into effect AND When education is complete
March 10, 2017

Education can be completed in advance

Restriction if education not completed

FAQs at cno.org

