

# COLLEGE OF NURSES OF ONTARIO'S Academic Reference Group

News to Use: April 2026

## Regulatory Changes and Updates

### Automatic Recognition for Labour Mobility

Starting January 1, 2026, following new provincial legislation on labour mobility, CNO has introduced the automatic recognition process. This process enables nurses registered in other Canadian provinces and territories to register in Ontario in just two business days. This streamlined registration process promotes labour mobility, while supporting safe nursing practice and public protection.

CNO has proposed fee by-law changes that would allow an applicant currently registered in another Canadian province or territory to receive a credit equal to 25% of their application fee when they apply to CNO. This proposal is one of two fee by-law changes currently undergoing public consultation. The second change relates to a new approach on how fees are set. For more information, visit our [consultation page](#) about the proposed changes and a link to the survey to share your feedback.

[Learn more](#) about the automatic recognition process for labour mobility applicants.

### CNO's Website Modernization Update

Over the past few months, CNO has been going through its web content to ensure it's clear, consistent, accurate and as streamlined as possible. As part of this work, we've made some changes to help nurses and system partners quickly and easily find answers to common practice questions.

Assisting nurses to understand practice standards and guidelines is one way we support safe client care. CNO has a team of Advanced Practice Consultants available to answer questions about understanding or applying CNO's [practice standards](#). These questions are themed and used to create Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) as a supportive resource. To make this part of our website easier to find, we've renamed the section [Practice Support FAQs](#) (it was previously called "Ask Practice") and reorganized the content.

### Modernizing Standards

The College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) maintains nine practice standards, guided by entry-level competencies. At the core of this is the overarching Code of Conduct Practice Standard. CNO aims to make its standards accessible, evidence-based, and relevant to current nursing practice.

CNO is updating its *Confidentiality and Privacy: Personal Health Information* standard, ensuring alignment with contemporary nursing and healthcare needs. This spring, a survey will collect feedback from system partners and randomly selected registrants to inform the revision. The updated standard will be considered for approval at an upcoming Council meeting, and academic partners are encouraged to provide input.

## CNO Data Reports

CNO releases reports and evaluations that can be found on our [Recent Statistical Reports](#) page. Several reports are being planned for release in the upcoming months, including:

- *Workforce Census (WFC) Experiences with CNO*: this report summarizes findings on nurses' experiences with the CNO and highlights how experiences with CNO's registration, professional conduct, and regulatory processes differ across groups
- *Nursing Statistics Report 2026*: this report highlights data and trends from the past year, including changes to the overall nursing population, demographic shifts and changes in employment patterns
- *Nursing Registration Exams Report 2025*: this report provides information about the number of Ontario-educated applicants who attempted registration exams and the number that passed

Stay tuned - further updates on the reports listed above will be shared soon.

## National RN & RPN ELC Revision Project

The national Registered Nurse (RN) and Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) entry-level competencies (ELCs) is undergoing a scheduled five-year review led by Canadian Council of Registered Nurse Regulators (CCRN) and Canadian Council for Practical Nurse Regulators (CCPNR), with support from all jurisdictions and coordination by external consultants Sense and Nous (S&N).

The project entered the validation phase, during which a national validation survey was launched on March 30 and concluded on April 17, inviting feedback from academics, employers, nursing interest groups, and registrants. CNO collaborated with system partners to support broad engagement throughout the process. At present, the validation survey results are being analyzed by S&N. Stay tuned for further updates on the national RN and RPN ELC revision project.

## Single NP Classification: Effective July 1, 2026

As of July 1, 2026, CNO will move to a single Nurse Practitioner (NP) classification. To enable this change, CNO Council has approved related by-Law changes following consultation, including updates to Find a Nurse to display an NP's entry-level education. Additionally, population-specific NP programs and their associated exams (these were previously approved by Council for registration in NP-Adult, NP-Primary Health Care and NP-Pediatrics certificates) will be discontinued with specific end dates, and the new [Canadian Nurse Practitioner Licensure Examination \(CNPLE\)](#) will become the registration exam for NPs in Ontario as of July 1, 2026.

Other Canadian jurisdictions plan to move to a single NP class in 2026 and implement the new national exam between 2026 to 2027.

For more information and FAQs, visit our [webpage](#) on the single classification of nurse practitioners.

## **New Foundational Theme for Program Approval**

Building on recent communication to academic partners about CNO's work to advance the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action 24, CNO held an engagement with the Indigenous Primary Health Care Council (IPHCC) to support the development of a new foundational theme within the Program Approval Framework (PAF).

This meeting marked the beginning of a meaningful co-development process guided by Indigenous perspectives and expertise. The session facilitated valuable dialogue to understand and consider the knowledge, priorities, and insights that will inform the direction of this work.

We look forward to our collaborative efforts with Indigenous partners through ongoing consultations, engagement, and drafting in the coming weeks. We will continue to engage and share updates with academic programs as this work progresses.

## **Did You Know?**

CNO's Education team supports academics with presentations about nursing regulation, Standards of nursing practice, and related educational content for students. If your organization would like to arrange a virtual or in-person presentation, please contact the Education team at [education@cnomail.org](mailto:education@cnomail.org) for more information.

## **Council Updates**

For more information please check our website: [Council Meeting Minutes](#).

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