



COLLEGE OF NURSES OF ONTARIO'S Employer Reference Group

CNO News to Use

October 8, 2025

Regulatory Changes and Updates

Modernizing Standards

In September 2025, CNO Council approved updates to the *Documentation* standard, which will take effect February 1, 2026. These revisions are part of a review cycle started in 2023 to keep standards evidence-based and reflective of current nursing practice.

The Documentation standard is widely used by nurses, academic institutions and employers, and supports CNO's regulatory functions. The review involved research, professional conduct data, partner input, and legal consultation.

To facilitate knowledge translation and implementation of the *Documentation* standard, CNO plans to provide a variety of resources, such as webinars, microlearning videos, Practice Support FAQs and updated guidance documents. Communication regarding the new standard will include social media posts, external presentations, participation in conferences and exhibitor booths. CNO will continue to monitor questions and feedback from the nursing community and will develop additional resources, as needed to support the understanding and consistent application of the standards of practice.

Online versions of the *Documentation* standard will be posted on CNO's [standards and guidelines webpage](#) once available. Please continue to monitor this page in the upcoming weeks for these updates.

Updated Standards of Practice: RN Prescribing

The [Registered Nurse \(RN\) Prescribing](#) standard has been revised to reflect the recent changes to RN prescribing education. RN prescribing was initially introduced as a post-RN continuing education requirement. At the June 2025 meeting, Council approved that RN prescribing education can be offered either as a standalone course or integrated into a broader RN education program and can be delivered either before or after RN registration. This decision supported the evolution and innovation in how RN prescribing education can be offered in Ontario. Minor edits to the standard were made to reflect this policy shift. No changes to nursing practice accountabilities were made.

RN and RPN Entry-Level Competencies (ELC)

The Canadian Council of Registered Nurse Regulators (CCRNRR) and the Canadian Council of Practical Nurse Regulators (CCPNR) are spearheading the revisions for the RN and RPN Entry-Level Competencies (ELC). They have engaged a consultancy firm to coordinate this project. Respective RN and RPN Steering Committees comprised of representatives from the 12 participating nursing regulatory colleges have been assembled to provide overall guidance and direction. CNO is one of the participating regulatory colleges. The activities completed by all participating regulatory colleges thus far include primary informant interviews, a current ELC survey and secondary informant focus groups. The secondary informant focus group included nursing academics, employers and interest groups. We extend our gratitude to all the individuals who have volunteered their time and effort towards the project activities to

date. There will be additional opportunities to participate in the revision project in the near future. Please stay tuned for further updates.

Mental Health Resources for Nurses

CNO recognizes the emotional toll that nurses' roles in health care can take. A new *Mental Health Resources for Nurses* page has been developed to compile resources to support nurses who are struggling with their mental health. The webpage is available in both [English](#) and [French](#). We encourage you to share this resource with nurses in your organization.

Quality Assurance

On September 29, 2025, nurses were chosen for Quality Assurance (QA) Assessment through a random and risk-based selection. Nurses will be selected for either [Part A: Knowledge Assessment](#) or [Part B: Practice Assessment](#) and will have 6 weeks to complete their activities.

If selected for QA Assessment, nurses are contacted by email, using the email on file in [Maintain Your Membership](#). Please remind your nursing staff to keep their email and contact information current. If needed, support and coaching are available to guide nurses who have been selected, through their QA Assessment activities. More information about the QA program and what nurses are asked to do when selected is available on our [Quality Assurance Assessment](#) webpage.

Learn about nursing trends in Ontario

On July 17, 2025, CNO released its *Nursing Statistics Report 2025* and updated its Nursing Data Dashboard, providing the latest Ontario nursing data available to the public.

New Nursing Statistics Report

The [Nursing Statistics Report 2025](#) highlights data and trends from the past year to help support health human resource planning, decision-making and research. The report reflects format updates we made in 2024 to ensure that system partners have a more comprehensive picture of the trends in nursing health human resources and can easily see the most significant patterns across all CNO data in one report. Key highlights from the report include growth in the overall number of nurses and the number of nurses employed in nursing in Ontario for 2025.

Nursing Data Dashboard Updates

We have also updated our [Nursing Data Dashboard](#) to include the latest 2025 statistics and added additional features. This self-serve portal contains information about registration classes (General, Extended and Non-Practising), as well as demographic and employment data. New for 2025 is the addition of data on new nurses and additional registrations.

You can find links to both the report and the dashboard along with additional data and reports on our [Nursing Statistics webpage](#).

Did You Know?

CNO's Practice Quality team also supports employers with collaborative presentations on the standards of practice and applying them to your specific practice setting. If your organization would like to arrange a virtual or in-person presentation on standards of practice, host a booth for full-day engagements, or organize activities for Nursing Week, please contact us via our [online form](#). We are currently booking engagements for 2026!

Questions?

If you have any questions about this issue of *CNO News to Use* or nursing practice, please contact CNO's Practice Quality team by completing the [online practice support form](#).