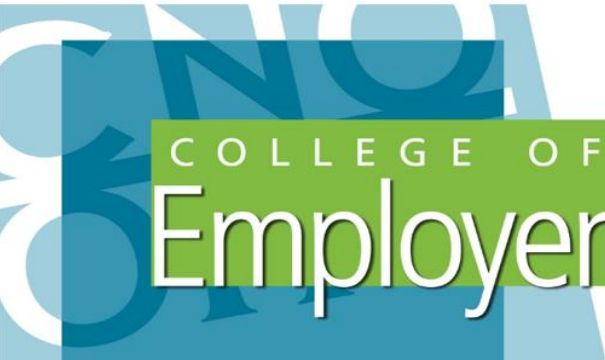




COLLEGE OF NURSES OF ONTARIO'S Employer Reference Group

CNO News to Use

October 7, 2026

Regulatory Changes and Updates

New Controlled Substances Regulation Now in Effect

The federal government's new *Controlled Substances Regulations* (CSR) came into effect on **October 1, 2026**. The CSR consolidates several existing regulations currently under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* as well as brings together six class exemptions into a single, modernized regulation. The [Nurse Practitioner](#) standard has been revised to remove the restriction regarding prescribing two drugs: opium and coca leaves to align with the new CSR. To support NPs in understanding and applying the new CSR, new and revised NP web resources, including an [FAQ section](#), are available on [cno.org](#).

Modernizing Standards

Confidentiality and Privacy Standard

On September 24, 2026, CNO Council approved updates to the *Confidentiality and Privacy – Personal Health Information* standard, which will take effect **December 1, 2026**. These revisions are part of CNO's cyclical review cycle to keep standards evidence-based and reflective of current nursing practice. Changes include updated format, streamlined accountabilities and new expectations related to the use of technology and social media.

To facilitate implementation of the revised standard, CNO plans to provide a variety of resources, such as webinars, microlearning videos, and updated guidance documents. Several new [Practice Support FAQs](#) have already been published to support nurses with the application of the standard.

Tune in to CNO's webinar on **October 27, 2026**, at 12 p.m., to learn more about the changes. Registration information will be posted on [cno.org](#).

Scope of Practice and Medication Standards

On September 24, 2026, CNO Council approved updates to the *Scope of Practice and Medication* practice standards. Effective **March 1, 2027**, the changes will strengthen client safety, clarify nurses' accountabilities and support greater consistency in nursing practice across Ontario.

The updated standards include changes for all nurses and specific changes for nurses working in aesthetic services. The changes impacting **nurses across all practice settings** include:

- the expectation for authorized providers to assess a client before issuing a client-specific order
- clearer delegation requirements

Additionally, nurses practicing in **aesthetics services** will be required to:

- remain onsite for the entire procedure when delegating a procedure to someone who does not otherwise have the authority to perform the controlled act or requires delegation to perform it
- use client-specific orders, rather than directives, for treatments involving prescription drugs or controlled acts

CNO will use a variety of approaches to support implementation of the revised *Scope of Practice* and *Medication* standards, such as a new [Authorizing Mechanisms FAQ](#) to support better understanding of orders, directives and delegation. In addition, a new dedicated [Aesthetic Services](#) landing page has been launched and includes FAQs, current accountabilities and resources. A webinar is also being planned for the fall. In addition, CNO's [Aesthetic Services](#) practice guideline will be updated to reflect the changes to the standards.

Please continue to monitor the [standards and guidelines](#) webpage for updates.

Nursing Data Trends in Ontario

College of Nurses of Ontario Movement and Attrition Report

On June 24, 2026, CNO released its [CNO Movement and Attrition Report](#), which is now published on the [Nursing Statistics](#) page on CNO's website (Under **Recent Statistical Reports**). This report provides an overview of the major trends regarding nurses' movement into and out of Ontario, as well as within the profession. It highlights various key trends, including consistent net growth in both the nursing supply and workforce, along with considerable movement between nursing categories.

New Nursing Statistics Report

On August 27, 2026, CNO released its [Nursing Statistics Report 2026](#), providing the latest Ontario nursing data available to the public. The report highlights data and trends from the past year to help support health human resource planning, decision-making and research. The report format helps to ensure that system partners have a comprehensive picture of the trends in nursing health human resources and can easily see the most significant patterns across all CNO data in one place.

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

New Practice Resources and updates

Authorizing Mechanisms

CNO has launched a new [Understanding Orders, Directives and Delegation: Frequently Asked Questions](#) to help support understanding of how the various authorizing mechanisms apply to different settings and situations.

New learning modules

CNO is excited to share the launch of two new interactive learning modules to support nurses' understanding and application of the *Documentation* and *Professional Boundaries and Nurse-Client Relationships* practice standards. Available in English and French, the modules include practical examples and knowledge checks to help nurses apply these standards in everyday practice. Check out the new modules online: [Documentation](#) and [Professional Boundaries and Nurse-Client Relationships](#).

Truth, Reconciliation and Ontario's Nursing Profession

CNO is pleased to announce the launch of a [new landing page on cno.org dedicated to Truth and Reconciliation](#). This page is a hub that brings together all the key Indigenous-related content we have published so far and will be a home for additional content we will publish in the future. The page shares the position statement of one of our main partners in this work, the Indigenous Primary Health Care Council (IPHCC), as well as our approach to land acknowledgements, feature articles from *The Standard*, and much more. We invite you to explore the content on the webpage, and to check back as we add more items in the future.

Supporting Nurses in Recognizing and Responding to Intimate Partner Violence

CNO has launched a new [web resource](#) to support nurses in recognizing the early warning signs of intimate partner violence (IPV) and providing thoughtful, compassionate and client-centred care. Developed in response to a recommendation from the Office of the Chief Coroner (OCC), the resource helps nurses strengthen their understanding of IPV and communicate effectively with clients who may be experiencing abuse.

On September 22, 2026, CNO collaborated with other health regulatory colleges across Ontario to increase awareness of IPV. A recording of the interprofessional webinar will be available in the coming weeks.

Conversations with CNO: Listening and Engaging (formerly Coffee Chats)

Coffee Chats have gotten a fresh new name and look! The series is now called *Conversations with CNO: Listening and Engaging*. While the name and branding have changed, the format will remain the same.

Join us for our next *Conversations with CNO* on **October 8, 2026**, at 12:00 p.m. titled *Research in Action*. This session gives participants an opportunity to learn about the purpose and function of our Analytics & Research team and discuss how research contributes to evidence-informed nursing regulation. Please [register](#) for this conversation if you are interested in attending.

Our last *Conversations with CNO* of 2026 will be hosted on **November 17, 2026**. The session is titled *Transitioning from Student to an Independent and Accountable Nurse* and will explore the realities of moving from student to professional practice. A registration link will be posted on [cno.org](#).

Student Engagement

CNO will be hosting New Graduate Webinars on **November 24** and **December 1** to support those who have nearly or recently completed a nursing education program in Ontario. These webinars will provide information about the process of becoming registered as a nurse in Ontario, including tips to help participants navigate the registration process. Participants will also have an opportunity to ask questions during a live Q&A.

Quality Assurance

On September 28, 2026, 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 until November 6, 2026 (6 weeks) to complete their activities. Selected nurses were notified by email and through the [Maintain Your Membership](#) Message Center.

Please encourage your nursing staff to check the email on file in Maintain Your Membership, to see if they were selected. Please reach out to CNO if support is needed. More information is available on the [Quality Assurance Assessment](#) 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 is interested in arranging a virtual or in-person presentation on the standards of practice and how they apply within your practice setting, please contact us through our [online form](#).

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](#).