

Therapy funding for patients who have experienced sexual abuse by nurses: Information for individuals considering making an application

Providing patients who have experienced sexual abuse by a nurse with funding for therapy and counselling is one of the ways the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) supports individuals impacted by such harm.

What is my eligibility for funding?

Once CNO receives a complaint or report related to sexual abuse by a nurse, the patient can apply for therapy funding to help them cope with the abuse's impact. The process is confidential and funding is paid directly to the therapist.

The law states that funding can only be provided for a period of five years. Your eligibility starts on the date you first received therapy or counselling for sexual abuse or the day you become eligible for funding.

What is the purpose of therapy funding?

Therapy or counselling can help someone to cope with the impact of abuse. Funding provided by CNO is used to pay for therapy and counselling received at any time after the reported sexual abuse took place. Payment is directly provided to your therapist or counsellor.

Funding for therapy does not mean the nurse has been found guilty of sexual abuse. A separate CNO process investigates the sexual abuse report.

Who can be my therapist or counsellor?

You are free to choose any therapist or counsellor to provide you professional support under the following conditions:

- The therapist or counsellor must not be a member of your immediate family or related to you by marriage; and
- The therapist or counsellor must not have been found guilty of professional misconduct of a sexual nature or been found civilly or criminally liable for a similar act in Ontario or anywhere else.

You may choose a therapist or counsellor who is not a member of a regulated health profession, however CNO

may require you to sign a document stating that you understand the therapist or counsellor is not subject to requirements that support public protection. A regulated professional has to meet certain requirements to practice a profession (e.g., a nurse or doctor), and has to meet certain requirements to maintain registration.

What amount of funding am I eligible for?

The amount of funding available is based on the amount the Ontario Health Insurance Plan would pay for 200 half-hour sessions of individual out-patient psychotherapy with a psychiatrist minus any other funding you are receiving for the therapy or counselling (e.g., if you are receiving funding through private insurance). Once a patient's eligibility is determined and the application processed, we will notify you of the amount you will receive.

How do I apply for funding?

To apply for funding, you must complete and submit a funding application form and a consent to release information form. These forms will help us determine your eligibility and amount of funding.

Once CNO has determined the amount of funding and that your therapist or counsellor can get, we will let you know the decision and of the maximum amount of funding you can receive for counselling or therapy.

You and your therapist or counsellor will each be asked to sign an agreement and confirmation form, relating to the amount and conditions of funding.

Who do I contact with questions?

If you have further questions about your eligibility or the status of your application, please contact:
CNO's Program Associate, Business Support
Tel. No.: (416) 963-7502 | Toll free: +1 (877) 963-7502
Email: fundingfortherapy@cnomail.org