

# COLLEGE OF NURSES OF ONTARIO'S Academic Reference Group

April 15, 2019

## What is the Academic Reference Group?

The Academic Reference Group is made up of educators and representatives of the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) who share information and collaborate on nursing regulatory issues of mutual interest and concern.

The group includes 10 Ontario nursing educators who have volunteered to represent all nursing programs in the province.

The goal of the group is to provide an opportunity for discussion and collaboration on regulatory issues of importance to both educators and the College of Nurses of Ontario.

## Welcome

Anne Marie Shin welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## Program Approval Update

### Nurse Practitioner programs

- All Nurse Practitioner programs were approved at the December 2018 Council meeting using the new program approval process.

### Baccalaureate nursing programs

- All baccalaureate programs will go to Council June 2019 for annual program review.
- Three baccalaureate nursing programs have received orientation for a comprehensive program review in June 2020.

### PN nursing programs

- In June 2019, Council will also review Practical Nursing (PN) programs, which is using the current PN program approval process. PN programs will transition to the new program approval process in Jan. 2020.

## Indicator 8 and 9 Development

We continue to work with external consultants and Subject Matter Experts on the development of Indicator 8 (Recent graduates' perception of their readiness to practice) and Indicator 9 (Preceptor's perception of student's readiness to practice). Collège Boréal, Confederation College, Niagara College, University of Windsor and Western University are participating in a pilot, testing four surveys developed for each indicator. Data collection will continue until mid-June 2019. Evaluation of the surveys and the process are currently underway.

## Other

Invoicing for program approval will start in 2020. Details will be sent to schools in the Fall, 2019.

## Entry-to-Practice Competencies: RN

A summary of revisions to the [RN Entry-to-Practice Competencies](#) were provided. RN Educator teleconferences will take place in April 2019. The purpose of the teleconferences is to review the competency revisions and provide a crosswalk between the current and new competencies. RN programs will be required to submit curriculum mapping for the new competencies Jan. 2020. Faculty and staff are encouraged to sign up for the upcoming curriculum mapping workshops in May.

## Entry-to-Practice Competencies: RPN

Using multiple stakeholder feedback methods, the RPN Entry-to Practice Competencies were revised. Surveys were distributed to all RPN members and PN Educators from March 1-15, 2019. CNO is hosting several PN Educator teleconferences in April/May 2019. The purpose of these teleconferences is to provide a crosswalk between the current and revised competencies and to identify changes and gaps for future

## GROUP MEMBERS

We encourage you to share your feedback with any member of the Academic Reference Group:

**Sandra DeLuca**  
Fanshawe College, Western University

**Laura Gedcke-Kerr**  
Queen's University

**Monica Parry**  
University of Toronto

**Sylvie Larocque**  
Laurentian University/Université Laurentienne

**Paula Mastrilli**  
George Brown College

**Mary McGrory**  
Humber Institute of Technology & Advance Learning

**Linda Patrick**  
University of Windsor

**Karen Poole**  
Lakehead University

**Kumaran Mahathevan**  
Centennial College

**Janet Anderson**  
College of Nurses of Ontario

**Carol Timmings**  
College of Nurses of Ontario

**Anne Marie Shin**  
College of Nurses of Ontario

**Donna Rawlin**  
College of Nurses of Ontario

curriculum mapping. PN programs will be required to submit curriculum mapping for the new competencies identified in January 2020. Faculty and staff are encouraged to sign up for upcoming curriculum mapping workshops in May.

### NP Prescribing

Based on stakeholder feedback, March Council approved a bylaw change to the status notation on [Find a Nurse](#) for controlled substances prescribing by NPs.

- Previous status: Entitled to practice with restrictions;
- New status: Entitled to practice. Cannot prescribe controlled substances until specialized education is completed.

### RN Prescribing

CNO's Council approved draft regulations that will enable RNs to prescribe certain medications and communicate diagnoses for the purposes of prescribing. RNs are not permitted to perform these activities until the Ontario government approves the regulations, the timing for which is unknown. Meanwhile, work to support future implementation continues. Prescribing curriculum is not part of entry-level RN education. Education will be offered as a post-RN qualification. CNO will engage with schools to learn about their plans to develop and deliver RN prescribing education.

### Reporting Requirements

Information was shared about current work to enhance CNO communications about reporting requirements. This work includes:

- moving the current [Mandatory Reporting Guide](#) to an online format;
- clarifying other reports (that do not meet the threshold of a mandatory report) that could be reported to CNO; and,
- developing tools to support reporters in understanding when and what to report.

The group was asked for their feedback on how reporting obligations are addressed in curriculum and how they are upheld when issues are identified in the student's practice setting. Several scenarios were shared. The group also had an exploratory discussion related to reporting students to CNO when character and conduct concerns are identified. Several barriers in providing these reports to CNO were shared and challenges were discussed.

### Future QA Program Update

An overview of the new QA program model and this year's project activities were provided. Activities this year include:

- the evaluation of new self-assessment tools
- the development of the online system where QA tools and resources can be accessed

Information and updates on the project are on our [Future QA](#) webpage. CNO is conducting focus group sessions on the self-assessment tools this summer. As part of the evaluation, we are seeking educators to participate in the process. The group was asked for their feedback on what types of resources would be helpful to educators and students to support the self-assessment process and tools for the new QA program.

### RPN Exam Update

CNO continues to work with British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals (BCCNP) to develop the new regulatory exam, assisted by our vendor, NCSBN. The Practice Analysis and RPN ETP competency revisions required as part of the new PN exam development have been completed. The next phase of item writing and review will begin. Regular updates about PN exam development and various volunteer opportunities will be communicated on [www.cno.org](http://www.cno.org).

**Next meeting, June 17, 2019 0930-1130 hrs.**

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