

COLLEGE OF NURSES OF ONTARIO'S Academic Reference Group

January 25, 2021

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 and Pandemic Check-in

Anne Marie welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced CNO's new Manager of Education, Katie Dilworth. Members shared their experiences with COVID-19 pandemic, including ongoing need for creative teaching solutions. Most students are attending clinical placements however some students have been missing clinical time because of individual quarantine requirements.

Program Approval Update

CNO reminded the group about updated Program Approval timelines. Annual and Comprehensive program review was moved from December 2020 to the March 2021 Council meeting. Program approval recommendations for 2020 will be reviewed at December 2021 Council meeting and the following year, program approval will move to September 2022 Council meeting. We anticipate having Program Approval timelines back to regular June Council meetings in 2023. Indicator 8 and 9 data collection resumed in January 2021. All nursing programs will receive a reminder email, including links for preceptor survey data collection in early February. CNO reminded the members that Indicator 8 and 9 data collection will not contribute to overall program approval score until 2024 to collect the required three-years of cumulative data, 2021-2023 inclusive.

NP Scope of Practice Changes

CNO noted that there has been no update from government regarding timeline to amend legislation to provide NPs with the authority to order magnetic resonance imaging tests (MRIs), computed tomography (CTs), and order and perform point-of-care testing.

CNO noted that there are proposed changes to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) legislation through Bill C-7 that will impact practice for all nurses. The deadline for Senate and Committee review is February 26th. CNO will update its [website](#) and other resources when more information becomes available.

Stand Alone Degrees

On December 11, 2020, following Council approval, the Ministry of Health enacted a regulation that enables Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology to offer baccalaureate programs in nursing. Any college wishing to offer a new baccalaureate nursing program must receive preliminary approval from the CNO, in addition to meeting the requirements outlined by Ministry. Interested schools were reminded to submit their written intention to CNO, who will arrange follow up meeting(s) and subsequent orientation.

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

Sandra Merklinger
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

Anne Marie Shin
College of Nurses of Ontario

Katie Dilworth
College of Nurses of Ontario

Donna Rawlin
College of Nurses of Ontario

RN and RPN Practice: The Client, the Nurse and the Environment Document Revisions

Nursing scope of practice is advancing for all categories and classes of nurses (NP, RN, RPN). CNO is initiating work to develop a new web-based resource to assist nurses in understanding, reflecting on and articulating their individual scope of practice. When complete, this new resource will replace the current RN and RPN Practice Guideline. These changes are at an early stage. As work moves forward, there will be opportunities for stakeholder engagement.

Standards Modernization

CNO provided information about a new initiative, modernizing the standards of practice for nurses. Project objectives include ensuring the standards are accessible, defensible and relevant. Modernizing the standards will advance CNO's strategic plan, supporting our proactive approach to regulation and strengthening our position as a system partner in patient safety. CNO is in the early stages of engaging stakeholders, with regular updates provided as available.

Harm Prevention

CNO provided an overview of work it has completed related to healthcare serial killers and sexual abuse, including new resources that educators can use in their nursing curriculum. CNO developed [a series of videos](#) that educators can use to raise awareness about healthcare serial killers, supporting prevention and detection. Based on multiple sources of evidence, several new [sexual abuse resources](#) were also developed that can also be used in curriculum to identify warning signs or behaviours that can lead to sexual abuse.

Emergency Assignment Class Feedback

CNO provided a brief overview of the emergency assignment class (EAC) process and outcomes achieved during the initial phase of the pandemic, along with an opportunity to provide feedback for evaluative purposes. Members are encouraged to share feedback with the CNO staff at any time.

Terms of Reference and Membership review

Members received the group's Terms of Reference with the meeting agenda for independent review. The group will discuss and update the Terms of Reference, including membership review, at our next meeting in April 2021.

Monday April 12, 2021, 0930-1130 hrs.

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