

Ministry of Health

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and Minister of Health

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February 23, 2023

Naomi Thick, President
College of Nurses of Ontario
101 Davenport Road
Toronto ON M5R 3P1

Dear Ms. Thick:

In the 2023 [*Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care*](#), the Ontario government recently announced a three-pillar strategy that focuses on providing people with a better health care experience by connecting them to more convenient options closer to home while shortening wait times for key services across the province and growing the health care workforce for years to come. Part of this plan also involves maximizing the expertise of our health care workforce by expanding scopes of practice.

To that end, I am delighted to inform you that the ministry has begun the work necessary to advance two of the College's regulation proposals: Registered Nurse prescribing and registered practical nurse (RPN) initiation. Additionally, the ministry is exploring the expansion of the scope of practice of nurse practitioners (NP), which could benefit patients by delivering timely access to care and ease stressors in practice settings.

Registered Nurse Prescribing

I understand that one of the fundamental pieces of this proposal is the development of an education and training program that will be required for registered nurses to prescribe safely. Therefore, I am asking the College to continue its work to identify an education partner and that you develop a critical path that includes definitive timing on when this work will be complete.

RPN Initiation

As you would have noted, this plan also references the proposal to allow RPNs to initiate certain procedures. This initiative is an opportunity to help patients access safe care for certain procedures more quickly.

Ministry staff will continue to collaborate with the College on this particular initiative and I look forward to implementation in the near future.

Expanding the Scope of Practice of Nurse Practitioners

In 2019, 2020, and 2021, the Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario and the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario recommended several scope of practice expansions for NP to enable them to order and apply defibrillation, certify death, order and apply electrocardiograms (ECGs) in all situations, order non-invasive electroencephalograms (EEGs), and order nuclear medicine procedures.

My ministry is committed to exploring these scope of practice changes for NPs and looks forward to working with the College and other system stakeholders on this important work.

Thank you for your work in protecting the public interest by promoting safe nursing practice and your continued support of these key government initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sylvia Jones', with a stylized, cursive script.

Sylvia Jones
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

- c: Dr. Catherine Zahn, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
- Dr. Karima Velji, Chief of Nursing & Professional Practice and Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
- Allison Henry, Director, Health Workforce Regulatory Oversight Branch, Ministry of Health
- Silvie Crawford, Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer, College of Nurses of Ontario