



October 14, 2021

Hon. Christine Elliott  
Minister of Health  
Hepburn Block, 10th Floor  
80 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

**Re: Expanded scope of NP practice**

Dear Christine,

I hope this email finds you well and hopeful as we begin to emerge from this arduous pandemic. With a brighter future ahead of us, I am urging you to take immediate steps to expand the scope of practice of nurse practitioners (NP). The change is long overdue. Indeed, by way of a letter to the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO), sent more than two years ago (June 13, 2019), you asked your ministry staff to work with CNO “to authorize NPs to order magnetic resonance imaging tests and computed tomography scans and to perform point-of-care testing.” Please let us know if there are any obstacles to the immediate implementation of this scope expansion. RNAO would be more than happy to assist in whatever manner we can.

Christine, RNAO has also been urging for the expansion of the scope of practice of NPs beyond your directive to the CNO. In a [June 17 letter](#), followed by a second letter on Aug. 8, we pressed for expanded scope as it relates to [RNAO’s response](#) to the proposed amendments to Regulations 682 and 683.

For reasons of safety, quality care, equity, accessibility and efficiency, we once again urge you to provide NPs with the authority to:

- order nuclear medicine testing/procedures
- complete forms under the *Mental Health Act*, including forms 1 through 5, 14, 28, 30 and 42.
- order non-invasive EEGs
- order ECGs in all situations
- complete medical certificates of death in all circumstances

On Nov. 23, 2021, we are hosting our Eighth Annual NP Knowledge Exchange Symposium. We invite you to bring remarks at any time convenient for you (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). We look forward to hearing your commitment to this further scope expansion for NPs, as well as the expected date for implementation.

Christine, the full utilization of NPs across all sectors through the COVID-19 pandemic clearly demonstrates the critical and timely impact of NPs across the health system. Further, as set out in the report of RNAO's NP Task Force, *Vision for Tomorrow*, the full utilization of NPs with expanded scope is an efficient way to optimize safety, access, quality, equity for Ontarians, and the cost-effectiveness of our health system.

RNAO urges you in the strongest possible terms to remove long-standing legislative and regulatory barriers to enable NPs to give the best care to the people of Ontario.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doris Grinspun". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Doris Grinspun, RN, MSN, PhD  
LLD(hon), Dr(hc), FAAN, FCAN, O.ONT  
Chief Executive Officer  
Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario