

**Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario**  
***Pain: Prevention, assessment and management***  
**Fourth Edition**  
**February 2025**

## Guideline Search Strategy

### 1. Structured Website Search

Two guideline development methodologists searched an established list of websites for guidelines and standards. Guidelines and standards were selected based on the following criteria:

- Guideline or standard published in English
- Available and accessible for retrieval
- Published no earlier than 2013
- Relevant to nursing practice
- Applicable to the Canadian context (e.g., studies in countries with similar culture and economic status/developed nations such as OECD countries  
<https://www.oecd.org/en/about/members-partners.html>)
- Focused on the topic areas of:
  - Assessment and management of pain not including management for specific medical conditions
- If the document was a guideline, it was:
  - Developed based on a systematic search of the literature
  - Contained a description of how the recommendations were developed
  - Included the word guideline or recommendation in the title or description

### Websites searched:

- Trip medical database
- Physiotherapy Evidence Database (PEDro)
- Occupational Therapy Systematic Evaluation of Evidence (OTseeker)
- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) (UK): Evidence Services
- Canadian Medical Association Infobase: Clinical Practice Guidelines
- Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)
- National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC): Clinical Practice Guidelines
- eGuidelines
- Guidelines International Network (GIN)
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
- Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR): Health Technology Assessment Publications
- Alberta Medical Association Clinical Practice Guidelines
- American Society for Pain Management Nursing (ASPMN)
- American Pain Society
- Australian Government National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

- Bandolier journal
- British Columbia Office of Health Technology Assessment
- British Columbia Council on Clinical Practice Guidelines
- Canadian Cochrane Centre
- Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment (CCOHTA)
- Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)
- Canadian Medical Association Infobase: Clinical practice guidelines
- Centre for Evidence-Based Mental Health
- Centre for Evidence-Based Pharmacotherapy Centres for Reviews and Dissemination (York University)
- ChildKind International
- City of Hope Pain & Palliative Care Resource Centre
- College of Nurses of Ontario: Standards
- CREST
- Evidence-based On-Call
- European Observatory on Health Care for Chronic Conditions
- World Health Organization
- Geriatric Nursing Resources
- Guidelines Advisory Committee
- Guidelines International Network
- Health Care Association of New Jersey
- Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences
- Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement
- Institute of Medicine Report on Pain (USA)
- International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care
- International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP)
- Joanna Briggs Institute for Evidence Based Nursing & Midwifery (Australia)
- Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health-care Organizations (JCAHO)
- Medic8
- Monash University Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences
- Nursing and Midwifery Practice Development Unit
- National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI)
- National Information Centre on Health Services Research and Health Care Technology (NICHSR) NLM Library
- National Institute of Health (NIS): Consensus Development Program (USA)
- New Zealand Guidelines Group
- Pain: The Wellcome Trust
- Royal College of Nursing Royal College of Physicians
- Sarah Cole Hirsch Institute for Best Nursing Practices Based on Evidence
- The University of Toronto Centre for the Study of Pain

- The Canadian Pain Society
- The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne Clinical Practice Guideline TRIP Database
- United States Department of Veteran Affairs (VA/DoD Clinical Practice Guidelines)
- United States Preventative Service Task Force
- University of Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Centre – Pain & Policy Studies Group
- Virginia Henderson International Nursing Library
- Google search engine
- College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO)
- Ontario Health (Health Quality Ontario [HQO])
- Canadian Nurses Association (CNA)
- Ontario Hospital Association (OHA)
- Ontario Medical Association (OMA)
- Health Standards Organization (HSO)

## 2. Hand Search

RNAO expert panel members were asked to review personal libraries to identify and submit potentially relevant guidelines. Guidelines submitted for consideration by RNAO expert panel members were integrated into the retrieved list of guidelines if they had not been identified by the online guideline search and met the inclusion criteria. For this BPG, there were no relevant guidelines submitted by the expert panel.