

Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care

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Ms. Anne L. Coghlan, RN
Executive Director
College of Nurses of Ontario
101 Davenport Road
Toronto ON M5R 3P1

Dear Ms. Coghlan:

The ability of nurse practitioners to prescribe controlled drugs and substances is important to ensuring services are delivered more quickly and safely across Ontario. This has been part of my drive towards a patient's first health care system in Ontario.

My recent mandate letter from Premier Wynne speaks to providing better supports to those with addictions, including those with opioid use disorder. I see nurse practitioners playing a significant role in helping Ontarians with this disorder to manage and ultimately overcome it. Moreover, recent federal legislation has nurse practitioners as the only clinician, other than physicians, who may lead or aid medical assistance in dying.

Given this context, I would like to see the College of Nurses of Ontario view nurse practitioners' broad scope of practice in determining the range of controlled drugs to be authorized to the profession. This will be reflective of how other Canadian jurisdictions have broadened the prescribing authority for nurse practitioners. Of course, this range of drugs would be balanced by nurse practitioners education, and those quality and oversight mechanisms that the College may view as necessary to ensure patient safety.

As Assistant Deputy Minister Denise Cole has communicated to you, I would like to see nurse practitioners in a position to prescribe controlled drugs and substances as soon as possible and no later than March 2017. The ministry will work closely with you and the Council of the College to bring this to fruition.

In closing, let me thank the College and its members for your ongoing contribution to the healthcare system in Ontario and for your continued partnership on this and a number of important initiatives.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Hoskins'.

Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister

Ms. Anne L. Coghlan

- c: Dr. Bob Bell, Deputy Minister, MOHLTC
Derrick Araneda, Chief of Staff, Minister's Office, MOHLTC
Denise Cole, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Workforce Planning and Regulatory Affairs Division, MOHLTC
Suzanne McGurn, Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Officer, Ontario Public Drug Programs, MOHLTC
Patrick Dicerni, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Planning Division, MOHLTC