



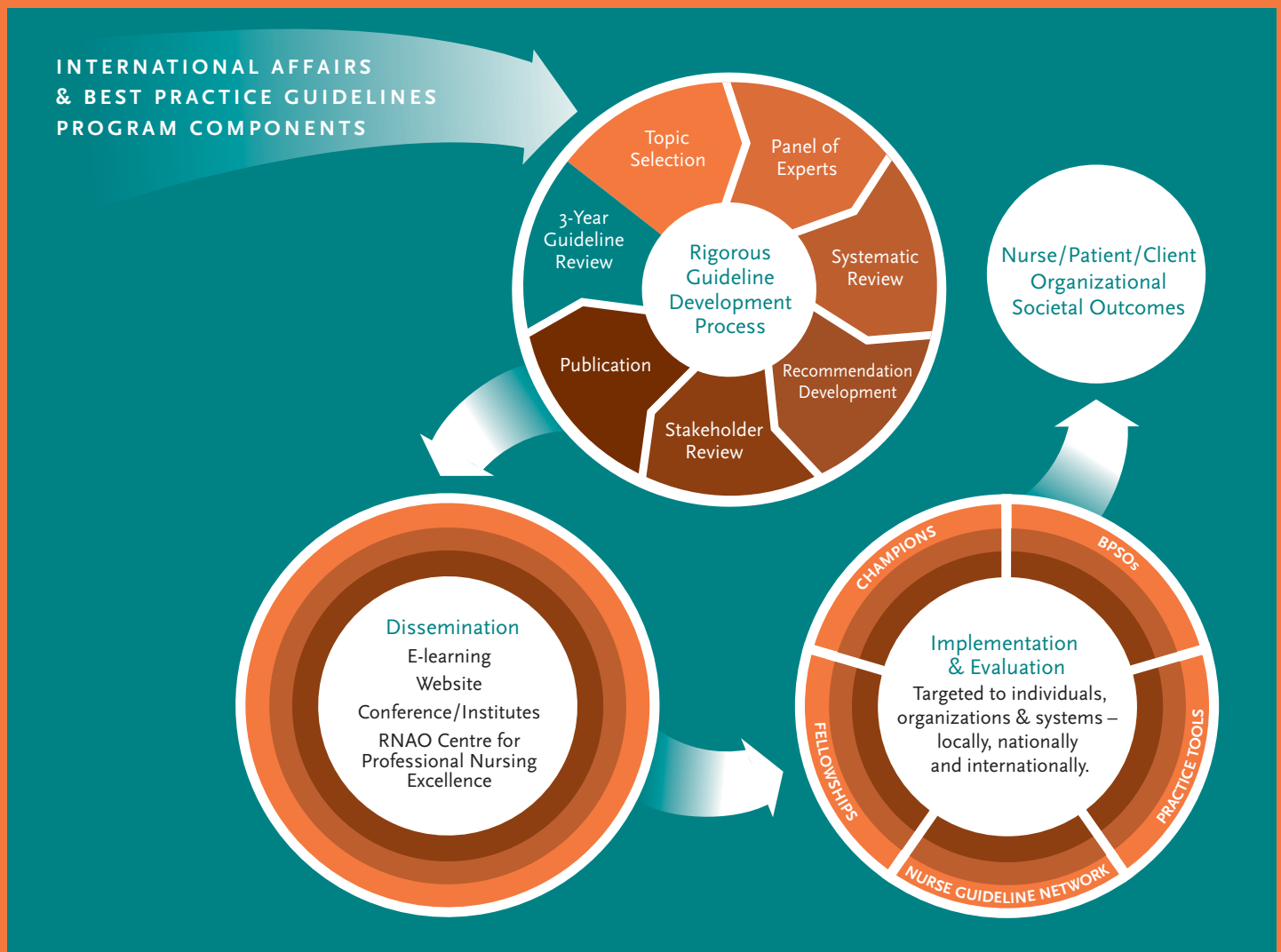
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS & BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES

TRANSFORMING NURSING THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

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The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) is the professional association representing registered nurses wherever they practise in Ontario. Since 1925, RNAO has advocated for healthy public policy, promoted excellence in nursing practice, advanced nurses' contribution to shaping the health-care system, and influenced decisions that affect nurses and the public they serve.

The International Affairs & Best Practice Guidelines Program (IABPG) is a signature program of RNAO focused on the development, dissemination, implementation and evaluation of clinical and healthy work environment best practice guidelines (BPGs). The program was launched in 1999 with multi-year funding from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.



DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION



DORIS GRINSUN
RN, MScN, PhD, O.Ont.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RNAO's guidelines are influencing nurses' clinical, education, research, administration and policy practices everyday and everywhere. These evidence-based tools are used provincially, nationally and internationally – enriching the practice of nurses and the people we serve. RNAO acknowledges the thousands of nurses and health-care organizations that have contributed to guideline development, implementation and evaluation. Together, we are ensuring the public receives the best possible nursing care every time they come in contact with us – they are the real winners of this awesome initiative!

RIGOROUS GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The best practice guideline development process entails a rigorous methodology including:

- Thorough topic selection and scope identification;
- Systematic literature review;
- Expert panels of nurses and health-care professionals, which develop evidence-based clinical, organizational, educational and system recommendations;
- Broad stakeholder consultation.

All guidelines are reviewed every three years to ensure the evidence base is current. Revised guidelines and/or supplements are published based on such reviews.

DISSEMINATION

The IABPG Program has developed unique dissemination strategies to enable easy access to, and utilization of, guidelines and resources. Highlights include:

- Free access to BPGs on-line;
- Hard copy guidelines and CD-ROMs with the complete set of guidelines and resources are available for purchase through our website;
- Active, user-friendly website and guideline-specific websites;
- Interactive, educational e-learning modules for selected guidelines;
- International best practice conferences;
- Week-long institutes on BPG implementation and evaluation;
- Customized organizational training and education.

To download the IABPG Program guidelines and resources, visit www.RNAO.ca/bestpractices.



DALTON MCGUINTY
THE HONOURABLE PREMIER OF ONTARIO

The government of Ontario is proud to support the Nursing Best Practice Guidelines (BPG) program. Recognized provincially, nationally and internationally, this program builds on the knowledge, training, expertise and compassion of nurses and makes a major contribution to nursing practices and patient outcomes. The BPG program is a shining example of excellence in our health-care system.

IMPLEMENTATION

IMPLEMENTATION AREAS OF FOCUS

The IABPG Program focuses on individual, organizational and system involvement to ensure effective and sustained implementation in clinical and management decisions.

INDIVIDUAL

Guideline Involvement

Thousands of nurses play key roles in the development and implementation of BPGs, and in the creation of evidence-based cultures. They are actively involved as:

- Expert panel members;
- External stakeholder reviewers;
- Ambassadors of evidence-informed decision-making in nursing practice, academia, management and policy.

Best Practice Champions Network®

The engagement of thousands of nurses in the Best Practice Champions Network® occurs through:

- Educational orientation workshops;
- Regular Champion Network tele/videoconference meetings for keeping up-to-date;
- Support and consultation from RNAO experts;
- Regional network development;
- Champion booster programs;
- Participation at conferences, workshops and institutes to share experiences.

ORGANIZATIONAL

Best Practice Spotlight Organization® Program

The Best Practice Spotlight Organization® (BPSO®) program offers support to health-care organizations and academic settings who commit to implementing multiple RNAO guidelines and evaluating their impact on patient and organizational outcomes, and/or academic results. The goal is to support “Hubs of Nursing Excellence” where service and academic settings have a joint focus on evidence-informed practice. The BPSO® process consists of:

- A three-year formal contract with RNAO, in which organizations carry out an agreed plan of implementation, evaluation and sustainability.
- Following the three years, successful organizations are designated as a BPSO®.
- The designation is renewed annually based on established criteria including continued RNAO guideline uptake and evaluation. In return, the BPSO® continues to benefit from RNAO’s support.



Advanced Clinical/Practice Fellowship (ACPF) Program

This 12 week (450 hour) program is funded by the Ontario government to strengthen nursing clinical knowledge and expertise. ACPF Fellows work with Masters prepared



nurse mentors to enhance their knowledge and skill in a practice area. In Ontario, potential Fellows and their organizations apply to RNAO for funding. Fellows use their experience to learn about, implement and help sustain specific clinical or healthy work environment BPGs. They assist their organization in becoming a BPSO® and support BPG Champions in their roles.

SYSTEM

RNAO partners with many stakeholders to create health-care excellence through system wide uptake of best practices. RNAO-led best practice guideline projects are funded by provincial, national and international agencies and governments. Highlights include:

- Development of guidelines in partnership with the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario.
- Province-wide implementation of the smoking cessation guideline for nurses.
- Province-wide implementation of evidence-based practices in the long-term care sector.
- National training of BPG Champions.
- National Collaborative on Falls Prevention in partnership with *Safer Healthcare Now!* and the Canadian Patient Safety Institute.
- Implementation of Leadership and Client Centred Care BPGs in China.
- Development of condensed versions of best practice guidelines for use at the point of care.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Many of RNAO’s BPGs have been translated into French and other languages.
- RNAO BPGs also have health education fact sheets for patient/family education.
- The IABPG Program Newsletter is published 3 times a year.



EDUCATION, EVALUATION AND GLOBAL CONNECTIONS



EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

The IABPG Program partners with RNAO's Centre for Professional Nursing Excellence to offer educational institutes and conferences to support BPG implementation and create learning communities and evidence-based cultures in nursing. For details, visit www.RNAO.ca/Centre.

Educational Institutes – Highlights:

Educational institutes are week-long intense educational opportunities to learn foundational and/or advanced elements of BPG implementation and evaluation.

Expert faculty offer strategies and coaching to assist individuals and organizations to effect evidence-informed clinical and management decision-making, leading to excellence in care through implementation of RNAO BPGs. Institutes offered include:

- Clinical Best Practice Guideline Institutes (Foundational and Booster streams).
- Best Practices in Wound Care Institute.
- Healthy Work Environment Institute.
- Institutes tailored to particular clinical and/or healthy work environment topics according to need.

Conferences

International conferences focused on clinical and healthy work environment best practices are held annually and feature leading edge experts and programs.

PhD Fellowships

RNAO's BPG Doctoral Fellowship program, in partnership with the Government of Ontario, is offered annually. Program highlights:

- The goal is to develop research capacity in the evaluation of health/clinical, financial and/or system outcomes associated with the implementation of RNAO clinical BPGs.
- One Fellowship is awarded each year. Fellows receive C\$25,000 per year, renewable for two years, and conditional on progress towards established goals.

EVALUATION

Through various components in the IABPG Program, attention is given to evaluating the process of guideline implementation, as well as nurse, patient, organization and societal outcomes, when guidelines are adopted in nursing practice.

Nursing Best Practice Research Unit® (NBPRU)®

The NBPRU® was established in 2005 by the RNAO and the University of Ottawa, Canada (School of Nursing) to advance nursing knowledge and research in the area of BPGs. It represents a collaboration between researchers, educators, professional associations, health-care organizations, policy makers and students for the purposes of research conduct, dissemination, exchange and transfer. Researchers and organizations are encouraged to apply for NBPRU membership. Details are available at www.NBPRU.ca.

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

International Program

RNAO is recognized as a world leader in guideline development, dissemination, implementation and evaluation. Elements of the international program include:

- Host of biennial international conference focused on BPGs;
- Keynote appearances at numerous international forums;
- BPGs used by nurses and nurse educators worldwide;
- Consultation and educational program delivery anywhere in the world;
- International BPSO®.

RNAO is actively engaged with international partners and welcomes new opportunities to collaborate in building a stronger nursing community globally and creating win-win results for all – nurses, patients and the system!

NURSE Guideline Network

The NURSE (Nurses Using Research to Sustain Excellence) Guideline Network supports nurses as knowledge professionals worldwide. Through this online professional network, individuals and organizations can share their guideline implementation experiences and related resources. Users can also search the network to connect with other organizations. We invite you to share your BPG experiences through the NURSE Guideline Network at: www.nursegn.ca.



IRMAJEAN BAJNOK, RN, MScN, PhD
DIRECTOR

The RNAO International Affairs & Best Practice Guidelines Program is proud to be leading evidence-based nursing practice through the development, implementation, and evaluation of both clinical and healthy work environment guidelines. With the engagement of nurses and other health-care professionals, we are transforming nursing through knowledge.



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TRANSFORMING
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KNOWLEDGE

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Join us in Transforming Nursing Through Knowledge!

- Volunteer to be a guideline panel member
- Register to become a guideline stakeholder reviewer
- Join the Best Practice Champions Network®
- Apply for an Advanced Clinical/Practice Fellowship
- Join the Nursing Best Practice Research Unit®
- Support your organization to become a clinical or academic BPSO®, locally, nationally or internationally
- Register on the NURSE Guideline Network
- Attend upcoming BPG conferences, workshops and institutes
- Apply for a PhD Fellowship
- Share your needs and ideas!

To discuss opportunities for collaboration locally, nationally or internationally, contact us at:
www.RNAO.ca/iabpg_contactus

Learn more about the IABPG Program and its exciting initiatives to support evidence-informed practice! Visit www.RNAO.ca/bestpractices.



RNAO, and its Best Practice Spotlight Organizations (BPSOs), in partnership with the University of Ottawa are the proud recipients of the Sigma Theta Tau International, (The Honor Society of Nursing), 2009 inaugural International Award for Practice/Academe Innovation Collaboration.

RNAO BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FACTS

- Clinical guidelines have been developed for topics relevant to older persons, adults, adolescents and children.
- BPGs are focused on health promotion, disease prevention and curative topics.
- Guidelines have been created focusing on healthy work environments.
- All BPGs and implementation resources (self-learning packages, e-learning modules, videos) are available for download at no cost on our website: www.RNAO.ca/bestpractices.

We are Transforming Nursing Through Knowledge to impact positive client outcomes!