

## Media Release

March 2, 2022

### CT/MRI Legislation for Nurse Practitioners is Coming July 1, 2022 Represents Removal of a Significant Barrier to Patient Care for Nurse Practitioners

(Ontario, CA)

The Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario (NPAO) is pleased the Government of Ontario and Minister of Health is committing to including the ability for Nurse Practitioners in Ontario to order CT/MRI scans. Ontario is the last Province in Canada to include these orders into the NP scope-of-practice and it is long over due. Implementation is scheduled to take effect July 1, 2022

NPAO has worked diligently for several years on raising this issue and pushing for this change with the Ministry of Health. NPAO President Amanda Rainville states, "The inability for Nurse Practitioners to order these tests has been a significant barrier to practice and has negatively impacted patient care. There will be an immediate and positive impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of patient care delivery by NPs."


The COVID-19 pandemic has placed considerable stresses on Ontario's healthcare system. Enabling NPs to order CT/MRI or provide POC testing will ease the strains while maintaining the delivery of healthcare. It has been a substantial inconvenience to patients and physicians who must find the time to sign-off on a CT/MRI order for NPs, who are perfectly capable of making those decisions and who are often the most responsible health care provider to the patients.

NPAO thanks the Ministry of Health and Government of Ontario for moving on this important initiative that NPAO has worked hard to achieve for all Nurse Practitioners in Ontario.

#### **ABOUT NURSE PRACTITIONERS**

Nurse Practitioners, also known as Registered Nurses in the Extended Class, begin their nursing career as Registered Nurses and become NPs with an advanced graduate education degree (i.e. Masters degree) as well as additional nursing experience and exam requirements. They work independently but are most often found working as key members with an integrated health care team. Nurse Practitioners have the competence to provide comprehensive health assessment, to diagnose health/ illness conditions, and to



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treat and manage acute and chronic illness within a holistic model of care. At a time when there is a shortage of primary care providers, Nurse Practitioners present an opportunity for Governments to close the many gaps in our health care system.

#### ABOUT NPAO

The Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario (NPAO) is a not-for-profit organization and is widely respected and recognized as the professional voice of over 4,200 Nurse Practitioners in Ontario, including Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics (NPLCs). Our goal is to ensure NPs are a key part of the healthcare system so they can deliver upon the promise of compassionate, patient-centered care.

Please contact Dana Cooper, NPAO Executive Director with any questions at [dcooper@npao.org](mailto:dcooper@npao.org).

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