

## Regulatory Questions

The College of Nurses of Ontario has developed a FAQ section regarding many regulatory aspects of NP practice:

<http://www.cno.org/learn-about-standards-guidelines/educational-tools/nurse-practitioners/faqs-nurse-practitioners-and-scope-of-practice/>

***Here are some specific regulatory questions NPAO frequently receives***

**Q: I am a registered NP. Acetaminopen 300mg/Codeine 8mg/Caffeine 15mg is an over the counter medication. Am I allowed to prescribe that for a client?**

A: NPs are able to prescribe OTC medications.

**Q: I am currently enrolled in the 1st year of a PHC-NP program. Once registered as a nurse practitioner by CNO, if I cannot find a job as a NP can I still work in a RN role?**

A: According to the CNO website, as an NP you are an RN in the Extended Class and you may still work in an RN role. However, you are only allowed to use either the RN(EC) or NP title when identifying yourself to clients and when signing documentation. For clarity, you should ensure that your clients and other members of the health care team understand the type of health care services they can expect from you. For example, although you are an NP, if you are working in an RN role you will not be providing diagnostic and prescriptive services.

While working in an RN role, you are still accountable for applying your nursing knowledge at the NP level. For example: as an NP you have competencies in advanced health assessment and diagnosis, which means that you may identify client issues that an RN may not. If so, you would be expected to report your assessment findings to another provider (e.g., a physician) for follow up.

NPs who work in RN roles are encouraged to review their professional accountabilities with their employer to ensure both understand what is expected of them and to have appropriate strategies in place for client care

**Q: Can you tell me where on the NPAO or CNO web site I can find documentation defining in what instances a NP is required to consult a physician?**

A: This is a regulatory question and the best advice is to contact The College of Nurses. The document I would refer you to is the Nurse Practitioner Practice Standard: [CNO NP Practice Standard](#).

**Q: Do you know what the future plan is for NP-Anesthetists in Canada?**

A: Currently Ontario is the only province that has established an NP-Anesthesia specialty. The College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) has not yet identified nor approved an examination for registration in this NP specialty. At present no one is registered in the extended class in this specialty. The University of Toronto offers an education program to currently registered NPs wishing to pursue NP - anesthesia care specialization.

**Q: I have a question regarding the continuation of the RN(EC) registration. I am currently a RN(EC), but I am working in a RN position. On this website it states "competence reassessment at the end of the first 3 years or 1800 hours". What happens if I am not in a NP position at the end of the 3 years?**

A: Please contact the College of Nurses of Ontario for direction: [College of Nurses of Ontario](#). CNO has developed a new Quality Assurance program for nurse practitioners as well as new registration regulations.

**Q: With all the recent changes to the NP Scope of Practice, can you help me understand what diagnostic tests I can order currently order?**

A: Please follow this link to updated information regarding regulatory changes to the NP Scope of Practice: [Ordering Diagnostic Tests](#).

**Q: Are there any set guidelines regarding whether an MD is required to be on-site for consultation purposes?**

A: Many NPs do not have on-site access to MDs to collaborate with and have established other strategies to ensure effective MD collaboration when needed. Please see the appropriate section in the recently updated NP Practice Standard: [CNO NP Practice Standard](#).