

# Professional Practice Notice

For the information of:  
Nurse Practitioners  
Operational Leaders of NPs  
Continuing Care Leadership

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## Ministerial Order for Temporary Changes to the Nursing Homes General Regulation and Nursing Homes Operation Regulation

- Effective April 24, 2020, the above Regulations have been temporarily modified to remove barriers and allow Nurse Practitioners to practice to their full scope in nursing homes. The change will remain in effect until August 14, 2020 unless the Ministerial Order is terminated earlier or the public health emergency is extended.

### PRACTICE CHANGE:

- 1.) Nurse Practitioners are authorized to independently perform assessments, write orders including the prescribing of treatment and medication(s) in accordance with their competency.
- 2.) Nursing home residents may be under the care of the Nurse Practitioner. This means that NPs may be the attending most responsible provider (MRP).
- 3.) NPs may be a part of the Facilities Assessment Committee.

### IMPACT:

- 1.) Communication and/or education to nursing and multidisciplinary teams is required at the operational level to support care delivery. NPs can provide care without the need for co-signature.
- 2.) NPs can continue to practice in collaborative care teams. However, the regulation changes allow the NP to be the attending MRP where appropriate. While this is within the NP scope of practice, this is a significant change to the current care delivery model and reflects a practice change in nursing homes.

A process to engage stakeholders to develop a provincial NP care framework will be initiated to support this practice change.

- 3.) In the interim, we recommend the use of the applicable sections of the AHS [Medical Staff Rules](#), Part 4, as a guiding document to outline expectations and accountabilities of the attending MRP to support practice and resident care.

For support to implement these practice changes, contact the Provincial Senior Practice Leads for Advanced Practice Nursing  
[advancedpracticenursing@ahs.ca](mailto:advancedpracticenursing@ahs.ca)