

**Date:** May 13, 2020

**To:** ECC/Medical & Operational Leaders

**From:** Advanced Practice Nursing, Associate Chief Nursing Office

**RE:** Changes to the Nursing Homes Operation Regulation & Nursing Homes General Regulations – Nurse Practitioners

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A Ministerial Order has been enacted temporarily permitting Nurse Practitioners (NP) to practice to their full scope within Alberta nursing home sites. Changes will remain in effect until August 14, 2020 unless the Ministerial Order is terminated earlier or the public health emergency is extended. NPs have been enabled to adopt the following practices:

- 1) NPs have the authority to independently assess and direct care, including writing orders and prescribing treatment within nursing homes. This authority aligns with the *Health Professions Act* and is a well-established practice of the NP role in other settings. Additional communication with multidisciplinary team members in nursing home facilities will need to occur to inform them of this change.
- 2) NPs are now able to provide care as the attending most responsible provider (MRP) within nursing home facilities. 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 this setting. In the interim, we recommend NPs use applicable sections of the AHS [Medical Staff Rules](#), Part 4 as a guiding document to outline the expectations and accountability of an MRP to support this practice change for NPs.

AHS will initiate a process to engage stakeholders and develop a provincial NP-specific framework that supports this change and its implementation.

These temporary changes are a result of an expanded interpretation of the *Nursing Homes Operation Regulation* and *Nursing Homes General Regulation*. Although the order is temporary to support the COVID-19 response, work has been ongoing to make permanent changes to the legislation since 2018. Please see attached Ministerial Order and Professional Practice Notice.

Questions? Contact the Provincial Senior Practice Leads for Advanced Practice Nursing at [advancedpracticenursing@ahs.ca](mailto:advancedpracticenursing@ahs.ca).