

Ministry of Health

Office of the Chief of Nursing
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Ministère de la Santé

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October 28, 2022

Dear Executive Directors/CEOs of Ontario's Health Regulatory Colleges:

As you are aware, the government is continuing its efforts to increase health human resources capacity to respond and recover from the pandemic, ensuring Ontarians have access to safe, high-quality health care now and in the future.

This week, regulations made under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* were approved that will help reduce registration barriers faced by applicants to the regulated health professions.

By January 1, 2023, the following will be in force:

1. The prohibition on the requirement for Canadian work experience unless otherwise exempted.
2. The requirement related to language proficiency testing.
3. Timely registration decisions and responses.

In addition, all health regulatory Colleges will be required to have an emergency class certificate of registration by August 31, 2023. This new certificate will include:

- The circumstances that will cause the class to be open for issuance and renewal.
- A timeline of no more than one year after the certificate is issued and is renewable for the same period of time with no limit on the number of renewals.
- The circumstances in which a member in the emergency class may apply for another class of registration and must exempt the applicant from at least some of the registration requirements that would ordinarily apply to the application.

The ministry recognizes that implementing these changes will require Colleges to update their processes and regulations under health profession Acts to be consistent with the new requirements. Ministry staff will be reaching out to the Colleges soon to identify workplans and next steps.

It is important that we collectively understand the impact of these changes on the timely registration of applicants. In the coming months, the ministry will work with the Colleges on key metrics for reporting, including:

- The average time between applicants' submission of materials and Registrar's response;
- The average time for a Registrar's decision on an application;
- The number of applicants using Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) approved tests for demonstration of language proficiency; and,
- The number of applicants seeking assessment of equivalence of international experience and the outcome of those assessments (i.e., how many were found to have equivalent experience, how many were found to require additional education and training).

The collection of these measurements is essential to providing data to the ministry to set benchmarks, identify gaps, and to develop improvement plans with Colleges for more timely registration processes.

We will continue to liaise with you as you develop your regulatory amendment packages. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jason Maurier, Manager, Regulatory Oversight and Performance Unit at Jason.Maurier@ontario.ca or Stephen Cheng, Manager, Strategic Regulatory Policy Unit at Stephen.Cheng@ontario.ca.

We look forward to our continued collaboration with the College on solutions to bolster our health human resources supply in Ontario and to ensure the delivery of the best care to Ontarians now and in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karima Velji', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Karima Velji
Chief of Nursing & Professional Practice; Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Health, Ontario

c: Dr. Catherine Zahn, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Allison Henry, Director, Health Workforce Regulatory Oversight Branch
Stephen Cheng, Manager, Strategic Regulatory Policy Unit
Jason Maurier, Manager, Regulatory Oversight and Performance Unit
Beth Ann Kenny, Executive Director, Health Profession Regulators of Ontario