

**Ministry of Health  
and Long-Term Care**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère de la Santé  
et des Soins de longue durée**

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NOV 04 2015

Mr. Thomas Corcoran  
Chair  
Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council  
56 Wellesley Street West, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M5S 2S3

Dear Mr. Corcoran:

On February 26, 2015, Premier Kathleen Wynne and I affirmed our government's commitment to authorize registered nurses (RNs) to prescribe drugs. This proposed change in the scope of practice of RNs aligns with our vision of a health care system that puts patients first by providing increased access to care.

As the decision has been made that this change in scope will occur, this referral to the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council (HPRAC) is not seeking advice on whether the scope of practice of RNs should be expanded to include prescribing drugs, but rather, I am asking the Council to conduct broad consultations with key partners within the nursing and health care community to assess the following three models of RN Prescribing:

- Independent Prescribing;
- Supplementary Prescribing; and
- Use of Protocols.

I am requesting that HPRAC provide me with the results of its consultation along with its recommendations related to which model is most appropriate for Ontario. I would like this report no later than March 31, 2016.

I recognize that this referral is a departure from the typical referrals that HPRAC has received in the past; however, given your extensive expertise in broad-based consultations, your undertaking this work will be of tremendous value to the policy development required to implement this change in the scope of practice of RNs.

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Please extend my appreciation to the Council for supporting this important initiative. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Cole, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Human Resources Strategy Division (HHRSD) at [denise.cole@ontario.ca](mailto:denise.cole@ontario.ca) or at 416-212-7688.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Hoskins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Eric Hoskins  
Minister

c: Denise Cole, Assistant Deputy Minister, HHRSD  
Presidents and Registrars of the Regulated Health Professional Colleges