

**Ministry of Public and
Business Service Delivery
and Procurement**

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Business Experience and
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**Ministère des Services au
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ServiceOntario

Division de l'expérience des entreprises
et des services relatifs à l'enregistrement



Ministry of Health

Office of the Chief of Nursing
and Professional Practice and
Assistant Deputy Minister

Ministère de la Santé

Bureau du chef des soins infirmiers
et de la pratique professionnelle et sous-
ministre adjoint

Memorandum

To: All parties on Scope of Practice for Nurses

From: Beverley Thomas-Barnes
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement

Dr. Karima Velji
Chief of Nursing and Professional Practice and Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Health

Date: June 26, 2025

Re: Medical Certificate of Death and Expanding the Scope of Practice for Nurses

On November 28, 2024, the Government of Ontario [announced it was expanding the scopes of practice for nurse practitioners and registered nurses](#).

Effective July 1, 2025, regulatory amendments made under the *Vital Statistics Act, 1990*, will allow:

- Nurse practitioners to certify deaths in a broader range of circumstances; and
- Registered nurses to certify deaths in limited circumstances by completing and signing Medical Certificates of Death in specific situations.

This initiative is a collaboration between the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement (MPBSDP).

To support the implementation of these changes, MPBSDP has developed new and updated training materials regarding how to certify deaths and how to complete the Medical Certificate of Death (MCOD), which includes a [video tutorial](#) and more, which can be accessed via [Publications Ontario](#) by searching publication number:

- [301835](#) for the Quick Reference Guide for RNs Completing the MCO
- [301833](#) for the Handbook on MCO (Prepared for Registered Nurses)
- [301834](#) for the Handbook on MCO and Stillbirth (Prepared for Physicians, Coroners, Coroner Investigators, and Registered Nurses with the RN(EC) designation).

These resources are designed to support nurses and their employers in understanding the expanded scopes of practice, new responsibilities, and correct procedures.

We kindly ask that you share this information with all nursing staff and your stakeholders to ensure they are aware of the regulatory changes, the training, and the available resources. It is essential that all staff understand how to properly certify a death and under what conditions they are authorized to do so.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and commitment to improving health care services across Ontario.

If you have any questions or require further clarification about this memo, please do not hesitate to contact Shelly Dolph, Senior Operations Manager, Office of the Registrar General at (807) 933-8880.

For any questions regarding the scope of practice for nurses, please contact the College of Nurses of Ontario using this link: [practice support form](#).

Sincerely,



Beverley Thomas-Barnes



Dr. Karima Velji

c: Samantha Poisson, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Public and Business Service
Delivery and Procurement
Deborah Richardson, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Dafna Carr, Associate Deputy Minister, ServiceOntario
Sirad Mohammad, Deputy Registrar General, Office of the Registrar General