



President's Message

Welcome new member,

The Ontario Podortho Nursing Association Inc. (not for profit organization), myself and our board of directors would like to welcome you in taking the next step building your career as a Podortho® Nurse (RN/RPN). We thank you for your support. Without your support we are unable to accomplish continued growth for our profession and advocate for you to ensure you are able to accomplish your career goals while providing quality care for your patients eliminating unnecessary professional barriers. We want to ensure our specialized area of Nursing is recognized across our province, so you can do what you do best. Foot and lower limb care.

OPNA's mandate is to support members by promoting the role of the Podortho® Nurse in Career objectives to work in an interdisciplinary health care setting or independent practice. OPNA makes recommendations and sources learning opportunities to increase Nurses knowledge and skills in the field of foot and lower limb care. This is accomplished though, with continued education initiatives through community colleges, private educational facilities and working with our resource care partners.

Welcome to the most advanced and supportive organization available to Nurses who have specialized in field of foot and lower limb care.

We are here for you.

I thank you for your support and look forward to working with you in the future,

Kindly,

Erin King

President / Reg. Practical Nurse / Podortho® Nurse
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C.E.O-Feet for Life Medical Foot Care Ltd.
Author- Feet for Life Podortho Nursing Care; 2019
Barrie, Ontario
www.feetforlifemedical.ca

OPNA Goals

- Active board of directors that are available to assist you through your career
- Uphold by-laws and policies to assist with accomplishing our goals
- Ongoing website work ensuring it's interactive and a resource tool for Podortho Nurses assisting them with practice concepts and to educate the public how they can locate a Podortho® Nurse in their community.
- Build ongoing core competencies
- Define the role of the Podortho® Nurse (RPN/RN)
- Develop a media campaign to increase community awareness of our role as Podortho® Nurses and how we contribute to the industry of foot and lower limb care as regulated health care providers.
- Set a standard Podortho® Nurse fee scale to ensure our profession can continue to provide quality care in a cost-effective manner
- Build awareness of the role of the Podortho Nurse to the provincial government and Insurance companies through the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association (CHLIA) to gain better recognition and obtain insurance coverage for our patients when a Podortho® Nurses performs the care no matter where the care is delivered in home, clinic, or institutional settings.
- Build relationships with our Resource Care Partners and Sponsorship Partners who support our vision.
- Build relationships with similar professions so we may work together and provide a mutually supportive referral system that places patient care first and foremost.

OPNA Long Term Goals

- Build committees to support our association and board of directors. For example, education committee, insurance committee and insurance direct billing committee.

As a new member we recognize you bring a superior set of skills and knowledge to the table and would appreciate a contribution of time for ongoing projects. If you are experienced in an area and can contribute some of your time to our association, please let us know as we move forward.

We are seeking abstracts from our members specific to your experiences and practice to publish in our newsletters whether it is something you have accomplished in your practice you wish to share about your business experiences or a condition you have successfully treated, please feel free to submit them to admin@opnassociation.ca so we may all learn from each other and continue to grow as professional practitioners.

Overview

The current model of Foot Care in Ontario has been reviewed in great depth beginning in 2014 ending in 2017, by the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council (HPRAC), advising our Minister of Health of the changes occurring in Foot Care in Ontario. It strongly suggests there are multiple disciplines that practice foot care under the umbrella of the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA) as well as practitioners who deliver similar care as unregulated providers. The RHPA is used as a source of reference for this document as well as the findings in the report by the HPRAC.

Statement

(provided by the College of Nurses of Ontario in the stakeholder's feedback for the HPRAC)

Registered Nurses (RNs), Registered Practical Nurses (RPNs) and Nurse Practitioners (NPs) (collectively referred to as “Nurses”) are regulated health care professionals who provide foot care in a variety of care settings, long term care homes, hospitals, CCDC’s, FHTs, physician offices, and in the community in patients homes or in private health clinics. Nurses assess patients, provide preventative care and educate and refer patients to other practitioners where necessary. Nurses also provide non-invasive foot care services, such as clipping nails, paring calluses and corns, debriding morbid tissue, treating ulcers, providing wound care, monitoring conditions of the foot, **prescribing and dispensing orthotics**¹, and wrapping and bandaging the feet.

¹ College of Nurses of Ontario 2014. HPRAC, stakeholder Feedback on the Chiroprody/Podiatry Referral: The current Model of Foot Care in Ontario. Part III(b); Other submissions, 54.

Ontario Podortho Nursing Association Practice Statement

Podortho Nurses are Regulated Health Care providers. Registered Nurses, Registered Practical Nurses, or Registered Nurses (EC) who have obtained advanced training allowing them to specialize in foot and lower limb care utilizing best practice guidelines created by The College of Nurse of Ontario working within their scope of practice to promote foot and lower limb health by providing foot and lower limb assessments and treatments that is supportive, preventative, and rehabilitative in order to maintain optimal foot and lower limb health.

OPNA’s insurance advisory committee has been working hard to assist insurance providers to best understand how Nurses who specialize in this field of care fit into the model of foot and lower limb care in Ontario and provided they have received the additional training and possess the knowledge, skill and judgement to perform this care consistent with the College of Nurses of Ontario practice standards.

Reference Chart-Delivery of Foot Care by Health Care Providers in Ontario

Practitioner	Chiropodist	Podiatrist	RN/RPN/ Podortho Nurse	Prosthetists/ Orthotists	Pedorthist
Regulated Health Care Providers	•	•	•		
Unregulated Health Care Providers				•	•
Basic Foot Care	•	•	•		
High Risk Foot Care	•	•	•		
Surgical treatment of soft tissue	•	•			
Wound Care	•	•	•		
Laser/photo Therapy	•	•	•		
Nail Reconstruction/Bracing	•	•	•		
Surgical treatment of the bone		•			
Prescribing Medication	•	•			
Communicating a medical diagnosis	•	•			
Communicating a nursing diagnosis			•		
Compression Therapy Fitting & dispensing	•	•	•	•	•
Dispensing Orthotics	•	•	•	•	•
Dispensing Orthopedic Footwear	•	•	•	•	•
Dispensing Prosthetics		•		•	
Padding & Strapping	•	•	•	•	•
Fitting Braces	•	•	•	•	•

Personal Contact Information *(for association use and its members and if agreed find a Podortho Nurse tool)*

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

PROVINCE

POSTAL CODE

HOME PHONE/CELL

EMAIL

Business Contact Information

BUSINESS NAME

BUSINESS ADDRESS

CITY

PROVINCE

POSTAL CODE

BUSINESS PHONE/CELL

EMAIL

BUSINESS WEBSITE

BUSINESS FACEBOOK

Professional Information

Credentials: RN RPN RN (Ec)

PROFESSIONAL NURSING REGISTRATION / LICENSE NUMBER

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION/LIABILITY INSURANCE NUMBER

OTHER ASSOCIATIONS YOU BELONG TO:

<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

NAME OF CURRENT EMPLOYER/ SELF EMPLOYED _____

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN PRACTICING NURSING FOOT & LOWER LIMB CARE? _____

NAME OF SCHOOL/INSTRUCTOR FOR ADVANCED NURSING FOOT CARE/PODORTHO NURSING _____

I give permission to the association to send me updates on topics related to my industry via social media or e-mail.

Yes NO

I give permission to be added (business contact) publicly to Find a Podortho Nurse tool.

Yes NO

I have completed this form personally and the information I have given is correct. I understand that the information I have provided will need to be verified. I give consent to the board of directors to confirm my status as a registered member of the College of Nurses of Ontario and Nursing associations relevant to my title.

OPNA Membership Cancellation Policy

The Ontario Podortho Nursing Association is a non-profit organization that is committed to delivering optimum membership benefits to regulated health care provider's RN's, RPN's, Pod. Ns members. The OPNA is primarily funded by membership fees, which in return enhances the quality of the association and benefits offered to members. As the OPNA expands, board members have a greater opportunity to advocate on the behalf of the Podortho Nursing profession. The OPNA encourages commitment to a full 1-year membership term and continued renewal; however, membership cancellations are permitted at the end of one-year term (December 31). A canceller must provide the OPNA with a written cancellation notice 30 days prior to membership renewal, to avoid cancellation fees. Additional OPNA membership cancelation guidelines include;

- Members must pay in full for one year. Memberships require a written cancelation notice at least 30 day prior to the anticipated cancelation date.
- Membership cancellers decline all associated OPNA membership rights, including the practicing title "Podortho Nurse" and waive the right to use any affiliated OPNA material or benefits gained through active membership.
- The membership canceller understands legal action may be taken if they fail to adhere to the terms outlined within the OPNA policies.
- The OPNA reserves the right to cancel OPNA memberships if members are not compliant to rules and regulations outlined within the policy and in accordance with best nursing practices outlined by the College of Nurses of Ontario.
- The OPNA is not obligated to refund membership fees outside of these guidelines

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

By typing my name above and including the date - I acknowledge this will be treated as my signature when submitting the form online.

PRINT YOUR NAME (NOTE: Only to be done if you are not submitting this form online)