

APPENDIX D

Canadian Nurse Practitioner Initiative Future NP Regulatory Approach Forum Summary Notes

January 2006

Canadian Nurse Practitioner Initiative Future NP Regulatory Approach Forum Summary Notes

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1. CONTEXT & PROCESS

Purpose	The primary purpose of the Forum was to reach consensus about a regulatory approach for Nurse Practitioners. The Forum presented a unique and timely opportunity for educators and regulators from across the nation to come together and articulate an approach that all could support in moving forward with NP regulation.
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To meet CNA's commitment to facilitate discussion around the regulatory approach for nurse practitioners in light of the findings of CNPI's work2. To explain and discuss CNPI's recommendation for the regulatory role and examination for nurse practitioners3. To determine the consensus on the regulated role for nurse practitioners4. To identify, discuss and establish consensus on 'next steps' in 2006 and beyond
Attendees	The Forum, held January 17 and 18 2006 in Ottawa Ontario, was facilitated by an external consultant and attended by over 50 individuals from across Canada. A complete listing of participants is contained in Attachment A .
Overview of the Forum	<p>The Forum consisted of one evening and one day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The evening included dinner and focused on providing background information about CNPI and its recommendation regarding the regulation of NP and examination. The information was to help participants understand CNPI, its history and current status, and the purpose of the Forum. Information was generally targeted to individuals less familiar with the CNPI project and previous regulatory approach discussions so as to help them actively participate in the next day's deliberations.• The next day focused on securing an agreed-upon approach to the regulatory role and examination.

Summary Report

The summary report reflects the highlights of the Forum and is not intended to capture all the discussions or comments generated throughout the day. It starts with a synopsis of the various 'positions' with respect to CNPI's recommendation regarding the regulation of the NP and moves to a summary of the small group discussions. The final section outlines the approach in moving forward, as was agreed to by all but two of the participants.

2. DISCUSSIONS

Stating Positions

In a large circle, participants were asked to a) identify themselves, b) note whether they were in attendance as a regulator or an educator, c) express their position in relation to CNPI's recommendation regarding the regulation of the NP and d) outline the reasons for their position. One by one, each participant took the microphone and spoke to their colleagues about their position and rationale.

In brief, all CNA and CNPI staff supported the CNPI regulatory approach outlined in the recommendation however there was diversity in the stated positions of the other 40 participants.

- **55% were in support** of all or a part of CNPI's recommendation (just over one-half of this group was regulators). They made comments about the following:
 - Clarity in title and regulation can effectively unite the NP profession, enable mobility and facilitate sustainability across Canada
 - Focus on the similarities rather than the differences in NP practice
 - CNPI's recommendation can be accomplished
 - There are different regulatory and education approaches for preparing, testing and monitoring NPs for context-specific or population-specific NP practice
 - Difficulties in establishing and maintaining multiple types of practitioners – both in NP practice and in other professions.

- **28% were opposed to or expressed reservations** about all or a part of CNPI's recommendation (slightly more than one-half of this group was regulators). They raised concerns about the following:
 - The ability of one exam to reflect the core competencies and test the knowledge and skill required for safe practice in

- different specialties or foci of NP practice
 - A generalist role that does not reflect today's realities or NP specialties or different NP client populations
- 11% were **undecided** about CNPI's recommendation (slightly more than one-half of this group was regulators). They indicated an uncertainty about what is best for their jurisdiction, the NPs, and the clients; they stated the need for more information and discussion.

**Small
Group
Discussions**

After lunch, five groups were created that reflected the diversity of roles and positions stated within the circle. A CNPI Manager was assigned to each group and CNA attendees each selected a group to join. Collectively, each group was asked to address and report a) Areas of 'commonality', b) Areas of support, and c) Ways to move forward.

The small group discussions lasted 90 minutes and each group was given five minutes to highlight their findings for the other groups. There was considerable overlap in the comments presented by each group. Below are the common findings from across the groups:

- One license for NPs
- One NP title
- One national exam testing NP core competencies that includes a core component and a choice of one of three fields or foci of practice – adult, pediatrics and family/all ages
- Change of foci or field of practice would require the need to show evidence of competence
- National standards for approval or accreditation of educational programs
- National Core Competencies to drive NP education, licensing, continuing competence, the field of practice, etc.

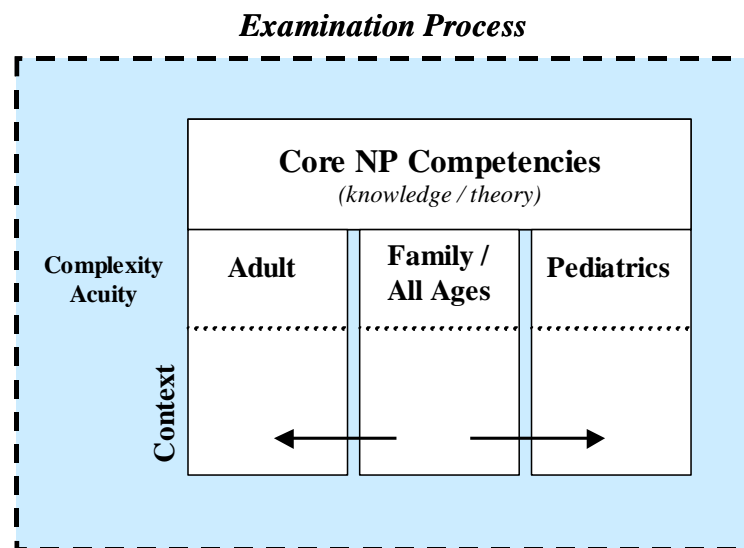
Other areas of discussion for which there was expressed support included:

- Primary health care as the underpinning for NP practice
- A minimum of two years of practice before becoming a NP
- Preparation for transition

3. THE CONSENSUS

Agreed Upon Approach

All but two of the participants agreed to support a specific regulatory approach. Quebec representatives were unable to fully commit as their legislative framework is inconsistent with the approach however, there was agreement that the development of specific provincial /territorial accommodations would enable the approach to work for them. Further, in-province consultations in Newfoundland and Labrador prior to this meeting had not provided the representatives in attendance with a clear provincial consensus so representatives from there refrained from committing to the proposed approach. All others were in full support of the following approach, which is visually depicted and described below.



- One national examination testing NP core competencies that includes a core component and a choice of one of three fields or foci of practice – adult, pediatrics and family/all ages
- The process can be a combination of paper examination and other testing mechanisms as deemed appropriate
- All tests will be of similar length / duration
- Change of foci or field of practice would require the need to show evidence of competence
- Both the adult and pediatric foci will include questions pertaining to ‘family/all ages’ as deemed relevant to the specific area of foci being examined

- National standards for approval or accreditation of educational programs
- National Core Competencies to drive NP education, licensing, continuing competence, the field of practice, etc.
- There will initially be three areas of NP foci – adult, family/all ages and pediatrics
- Each of the three foci area will include knowledge, skill and application testing related to the higher acuity and more complex clients seen in practice.

Next
Steps

1. CNPI will circulate the summary notes to participants
2. CNPI will include the agreed upon regulatory approach in the final recommendation and report
3. CNA will follow-up with the provincial/territorial jurisdictions as needed to move forward with the approach
4. Educators need to examine what changes will be required in their programs to meet the consensus statements
5. Regulators need to examine what changes will be required in their respective jurisdictions to meet the consensus statements

Attachment: List of Participants

Regulators & Educators

Allard Manon	QU	Regulator
Andrews Jeanette	NF	Regulator
Belcourt Terri	NT	Regulator
Best Donna	NF	Educator
Bowen Denise	NT	Educator
Bradbury Cathy	YK	Regulator
Brunskill Donna	SK	Regulator
Campbell Kim	AB	Regulator
Cote Edith	QU	Educator
Doucette Suzanne	ON	Educator
Fahey Walsh Jane	ON	Regulator
Finley Linda	NB	Regulator
Fraser Askin Debbie	MB	Educator
Gauthier Paula	PE	Regulator
Gosbee Becky	PE	Regulator
Hamilton Linda	NS	Regulator
Hutchison Fiona	BC	Educator
Jachim Becky	BC	Student?
Joachim Gloria	BC	Educator
Laflame France	QU	Regulator
Lundgen Betty	NF	Regulator
Macdonald Marjorie	BC	Educator
Martin Misener Ruth	NS	Educator
Mcgarr Patricia	YK	Regulator
Mckay Shirley	SK	Regulator
Neilson Sue	MB	Regulator
Nelson Sioban	ON	Educator
Owen Williams Eileen	BC	Educator
Pinelli Janet	ON	Educator
Prendergast Paula	NS	Regulator
Rowsell Joan	NF	Educator
Sangster Gormley Esther	NB	Educator
Sherman Carol	QU	Educator
Tapp Dianne	AB	Educator
Tarjan Roxanne	NB	Regulator
Vigar Cheri	ON	Regulator
Wearing Jo	BC	Regulator
Williams Bev	AB	Educator
Wilson Mate Diane	MB	Regulator
Wright Rita	AB	Regulator

CNA Participants

Lucille Auffrey
Janet Davies
Radosna Bijukovic

CNPI Participants

Marian Knock
Madge Applin
Lisa Little
Gail Shandro
Rob Calnan