



ONA Position Statement

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SUPPORTING LEARNERS

Nurses are accountable for providing direction and sharing their knowledge and expertise to support learners who are transitioning into the profession, a new role or new practice area. As part of their regular duties, nurses may be required to supervise the activities of learners or may be assigned a formal mentorship role.

The Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) believes that all nurses working with learners should be provided the following information:

- The learner's scope of responsibilities, practice limitations and legislated authority.
- The learner's knowledge, skill and judgement related to the practice setting.
- The learner's goals and objectives for the educational experience.
- The supervising nurse's role, function and responsibilities.
- Resources required to support the learner.

Nurses who agree to act as preceptors must be informed in advance, and in writing, of their legal obligations and liability when acting as a preceptor, and the contact information of a faculty member of the educational facility.

ONA also believes that learners should not be counted or utilized as staff, and should have access to an educational faculty member at all times. ONA believes that nurses have the right to refuse delegation of duties to learners when they believe they do not have sufficient information about the learner, or when they believe they do not have sufficient time to ensure adequate teaching and/or supervision.

September 2020