



ONA Position Statement

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) supports the position that voluntary participation in continuing education enhances the professional accountability of nurses and health-care professionals. ONA recognizes the importance of continuing education to maintain competence and strengthen the quality of patient care.

Continuous professional development is a hallmark of professional nursing practice and incorporates a diverse range of activities, including but not limited to formal academic programs, short-term continuing education activities, certification programs, independent learning and committee participation. Both formal and informal education can assist with the registered nurse's progression from novice to expert in response to the population health needs, advancements in technology, and changes within the health-care system.

Strategies need to be established to address the challenges faced by nurses and health care professionals in accessing learning opportunities and to improve their ability to participate in continuing education. Through negotiations, ONA has achieved provisions in collective agreements concerning continuous professional development, and will strive to establish further opportunities for its members to access additional educational programs supported and funded by employers.

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