



October 1, 2007

Dear CAPHC Colleagues,

Subject: Guidelines of RN, RPN Utilization

CAPHC has recently received a request for information from our colleagues at McMaster Children's Hospital regarding guidelines of RN, RPN utilization.

In view of the new College of Nurses of Ontario guidelines of RN, RPN utilization, and the difficulties of recruiting RNs in many clinical areas, the Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) Corporation is reviewing staffing models with the possibility of increasing the number of RPNs in their nursing staffing mix. Although McMaster Children's Hospital has not been confronted with a nursing shortage, they would like to be proactive, and keep abreast of RPN utilization in other pediatric health centres.

As CAPHC's liaison, I would greatly appreciate if you could share the following questions with your respective nursing/HR representatives.

Does your facility have RPNs working in any of the following areas?

I. In-patient acute care units (including specialty units)

Yes _____ No _____

II. PICU/PCCU

Yes _____ No _____

III. Neonatal ICU

Yes _____ No _____

IV. Out patient clinics

Yes _____ No _____

V. Emergency (caring for children)

Yes _____ No _____

If you answered yes to any of the above, could you please indicate if the RPNs are practicing to their full scope, having their own assignment and the ratio to RNs in the area of practice?

If possible, I would greatly appreciate if you could forward your various responses or feedback directly to Ruth Lee, Chief of Nursing Practice, Hamilton Health Sciences, McMaster Children's Hospital, McMaster University Medical Centre - rlee@hhsc.ca

As we have done in the past, your collective responses (without any identifiers) will be posted on the CAPHC web site (www.caphc.org) so that we may share your experiences and recommendations with all our paediatric colleagues.

CAPHC is pleased to facilitate this request and we look forward to hearing from other members about new collaborative opportunities based on our common goals and objectives!

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. As always, your participation is most appreciated!

Looking forward to seeing many of you in Montreal!

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elaine Orrbine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Elaine Orrbine
President & CEO
Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres (CAPHC) www.caphc.org
Association Canadienne Des Centres De Santé Pédiatriques (ACCSP)