



**Nurse Practitioner  
Association of Canada**

**Association des  
infirmières et infirmiers  
praticiens du Canada**

Manager – Group Product Services  
Group Customer Product and Experience  
Canada Life

February 03, 2020

Dear Leah F,

Re your response to Nurse Practitioners of New Brunswick.

Allow me to introduce myself. I am Lenora Brace, MN, NP, the president of the Nurse Practitioner Association of Canada-Association des infirmières et infirmiers praticiens du Canada. I respectfully need to provide knowledge and advocate for recognition of the law, and I include Joan Weir in this email thread.

In Canada, over 6,400 Nurse Practitioners (<https://npac-aiipc.org/>) provide care to 3,000,000 patients annually. Nurse practitioners work independently and collaboratively with other members of the healthcare team to not only provide individual patient care, but also to improve practice and community/population health. Their work is informed by evidence, best practice guidelines and research to develop, implement and evaluate care. NPs offer care in many settings and to many populations, including priority areas such as primary care, mental health, home/palliative care, and public health.

NPAC-AIIPC is the national voice representing nurse practitioners, advocating for and reducing barriers to enable full practice authority. The association is recognized by national stakeholders and is invited to speak on health and social policy issues affecting Canadians and Nurse Practitioner practice. Our growing membership has representation from all nursing regulatory regions of Canada.

You work closely with the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association (CLHIA) to better understand how you can work with plan sponsors to increase their knowledge about health care providers other than physicians, and the value and importance these providers have not only in providing Canadians with increased access to quality healthcare, but also in the role they can have under a group benefits plan. I personally thank you for this work with CLHIA. I have been in

contact with Joan Weir over the past year and look forward to being an exhibitor at the conference in Windsor, Ontario in May to increase knowledge about nurse practitioners.

I am advocating 'group benefits plan policies and ASO contracts' be changed from stipulation of physician prescription to 'person entitled by law to prescribe them'. This will include prescriptions for medical supplies, prescriptions for physiotherapist and massage treatments and numerous other services that historically only physicians prescribed. The health care system is changing and must change to meet the current demands. Nurse practitioners are competent. The legislation, i.e. the law, entitles nurse practitioners to prescribe. It is the law that we can perform Medical Assistance in Dying, prescribe narcotics, prescribe and assist with medical termination of pregnancy. We diagnosis and manage Type I and Type II diabetes but wording in contracts that does not align with the law negates honoring a prescription for an Insulin pump or a copper IUD that we can insert. Please consider the negative impact on Canadian patients. Consider the damage to provider relationships this can have. Consider the cost to the system which is unnecessary if a patient must seek another provider for coverage of a prescription.

Eligibility for these services needs to occur. It is just and right that language change in contracts to align with the law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lenora Brace".

Lenora Brace, MN, NP, President NPAC-AIIPC  
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