



Nurse Practitioner  
Association of Canada

Association des  
infirmières et infirmiers  
praticiens du Canada

February 20, 2020

Dear W5 - CTV,

### **Insurance Companies Ignore Nurse Practitioner Prescriber Legislation.**

Nurse Practitioners (NPs ) have been practicing in Canada since the 1990's. According to the World Health Organization, a health care crisis is upon us, due to an aging population in conjunction with fewer physicians, nurses and allied health care providers. Significant financial and human resources have expanded the law for NP Prescriptive Authority. Numerous Acts still need language to be inclusive of nurse practitioner authority: Food and Drug Act, Railway Acts, and Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

When a nurse practitioner writes a prescription for medical supplies, such as an Insulin Pump, the insurance plan may not accept that prescription despite the fact that they will accept a NP prescription for insulin. Prescriptions for narcotics and Mifegymeso (medical abortion medication) are accepted, yet prescriptions for massage therapy or orthotic insoles are not. Every province and territory in Canada has insurance plans breaking the law and ignoring the legislation for nurse practitioner prescriptions. Over 3,000,000 Canadians are negatively impacted.

Third party insurance companies have a colonial language that has been ingrained in post colonial culture and in all institutions in Canada which keep women and professionals historically considered subservient in their place. Insurance contracts are physician centric. Canada's Life and Health Insurer's are major investors in the Canadian economy with assets of \$850 billion at the end of 2018 (CHLIA). Does wealth permit ignoring the law?

"Ignorance of the law excuses not" and "ignorance of law excuses no one". Can Canadians hold their insurance companies liable for ignoring legislation?

Nurse Practitioners are requesting W5 to investigate why and how insurance companies are being permitted to ignore legislation for NP authority to prescribe necessary medical services, medical equipment and devices.

Lenora Brace, MN, NP, President NPAC-AIIPC

Nurse Practitioner Association of Canada-Association des infirmières et infirmiers praticiens du Canada

1-902-956-4822 <https://npac-aiipc.org>