



Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario  
L'Association des infirmières et infirmiers  
autorisés de l'Ontario

May 26, 2017

Kathryn Nichol  
Vice President Best Practices, Education and Research & Chief Nursing Executive  
VHA Home HealthCare  
30 Soudan Ave, Suite 600  
Toronto, ON  
M4S 1V6

Dear Kathryn,

The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) is pleased to confirm that VHA Home HealthCare has been awarded the BPSO® Designation for 2017-2019, and is eligible to continue in the program. RNAO congratulates you on your two years as a BPSO® Designate. Your continued support to nursing and the interprofessional team to build capacity, maximize clinical excellence through use of RNAO's Best Practice Guidelines and evaluate outcomes is commendable.

The areas that have been identified as most impressive are your focus on clinical excellence and best practices during times of system change and shifting priorities. This was clear in the discussion we had regarding your recent Accreditation experience and the comments from the surveyors related to your commitment to implementing evidence-based practices. The continued efforts to engage champions and find ways to support them in their work is evident, and you shared with us several approaches you are utilizing to engage your remote work force. We acknowledge your efforts to strengthen your data quality and participation in NQuIRE, and know you will continue your attention in this area. We would also encourage the VHA BPSO team to continue to seek opportunities for manuscript submission, and wish you success with your planned submission to Home Healthcare Services Quarterly.

RNAO is committed to continued development of the BPSO program to support all our BPSO Designates in their ongoing work to enhance and sustain evidence-based practice cultures. We have attached the Terms and Conditions for the 2017-2019 BPSO designation period. Please sign **two copies** by **June 16, 2017** and return to

RNAO to the attention of Citlali Singh, 158 Pearl St. Toronto, ON, M5H 1L3. We will return a counter-signed copy for your files.

Please extend our sincere congratulations to your team and all those involved for your outstanding work. We recognize the commitment that has been made at all levels of the organization to advance your BPSO Designate activities, and are aware of the positive impacts on client and provider outcomes as well as overall quality of care in your organization. We look forward to our continued partnership with you as a BPSO Designate, and member of this world wide endorsement program focused on ensuring evidence based practice for all, everywhere.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Valerie Grdisa', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Valerie Grdisa, RN, MS, PhD  
Director, International Affairs & Best Practice Guidelines Centre  
Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario

CC: Pamela Stuckless, Manager, Professional Practice-Nursing & PSW &  
Infection Prevention and Control Lead, VHA Home HealthCare