



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

Thursday September 16, 2021

Kathryn Nichol  
VHA Home Healthcare  
30 Soudan Ave, Suite 600  
Toronto, ON  
M4S 1V6  
[knichol@vha.ca](mailto:knichol@vha.ca)

Dear Kathryn,

The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) is pleased to confirm that VHA Home Health Care has been awarded the BPSO® Designation for 2021-2023, and is eligible to continue in the program. RNAO congratulates you on successfully completing another 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. In particular, we were impressed by: your ability to continue to implement and sustain BPGs during the COVID-19 pandemic; the expansion of your best practice champion network which includes a requirement for competency validation; multiple dissemination events at conferences and a publication; engagement with clients to ensure their voice is integrated in your work; streamlined data collection processes; and the development of strong partnerships with the East Toronto Health Partners BPSO OHT.

In addition to implementing the two new guidelines, *Assessment and Care of Adults at Risk for Suicidal Ideation and Behaviour* (2009), and *Preventing Violence, Harassment, and Bullying Against Health Workers* (2019), we encourage you to focus on the following in the next reporting period: inviting champions to expand their skill and knowledge of content from the new Leading Change Toolkit™ through RNAO capacity building offerings; continuing to work with RNAO and BPSO OHT partners to align BPSO direct and BPSO OHT work; and engaging with other home care agencies and the NQUIRE team to refine indicators that will support meaningful data collection.

We acknowledge your participation and congratulate you on the data submitted to NQUIRE for this reporting period. Your participation in NQUIRE demonstrates the value of evidence-based practice and is having a significant impact on the BPG Program. We look forward to your ongoing contributions; should you have any inquiries or a need for consultations, we can be reached at [nquire@rnao.ca](mailto:nquire@rnao.ca).

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 2021-2023 BPSO designation period. Please sign by **October 15, 2021** and scan a copy to RNAO to Angela Joyce via [ajoyce@rnao.ca](mailto:ajoyce@rnao.ca). We will return a scanned counter-signed copy for your files.



# RNAO

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

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 person 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 global BPSO movement focused on ensuring evidence based practice for all, everywhere.

Warmest Regards,

Heather McConnell, RN, BScN, MA(Ed)  
Director - IABPG CENTRE, International Affairs and Best Practice Guidelines Centre  
Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario