



Restricted Titles

The College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) recently advised that a member of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario's (CVO) had inquired about the use of the title "nurse" in a veterinary setting.

Please note that the titles of Nurse, Registered Nurse, Registered Practical Nurse, any variation, or abbreviation can only be used by members of the College of Nurses of Ontario.

From the Nursing Act, 1991

Restricted titles

11. (1) No person other than a member shall use the title "nurse", "nurse practitioner", "registered nurse" or "registered practical nurse", a variation or abbreviation or an equivalent in another language. 2007, c. 10, Sched. B, s. 14 (1).

Exception

(2) Despite subsection (1), a person may use the title "Christian Science nurse" or "graduate nurse", a variation or abbreviation or an equivalent in another language. 1991, c. 32, s. 11 (2).

Restricted title

(3) No person shall use the title "nursing assistant" or a variation or abbreviation of it. 1991, c. 32, s. 11 (3).

Offence

13. Every person who contravenes subsection 11 (1), (3) or (5) is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine of not more than \$25,000 for a first offence and not more than \$50,000 for a second or subsequent offence. 2007, c. 10, Sched. B, s. 14 (3).

Individuals who refer to themselves as nurses in Ontario without being registered with the College of Nurses of Ontario are called "illegal practitioners" and can be prosecuted under the *Nursing Act* and the *Regulated Health Professions Act*.

Please contact the CVO if you have any concerns.