



Canadian Nursing Students' Association Association des étudiant(e)s infirmier(ère)s du Canada

Nursing : Change, Challenge, & Choice
Relève infirmière: Développement, défi, & décision

Press Release

For immediate release

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H1N1 Vaccine Administration

It has recently been brought forward to CNSA that some of our member schools are allowing their students to administer the H1N1 vaccine to the general public. While we certainly have every intention to be involved in pandemic planning and health promotion/illness prevention, we are concerned that some students may not be provided with the necessary tools to ensure safe, evidence-based practice.

CNSA encourages all students to consider the following:

1) Are you receiving immediate support in the clinical area where you are administering the vaccines?

Students have the right to have a mentor or clinical instructor available at all times.

2) Have you received an in-service/workshop to practice and prepare your technique?

Students are obligated to be using proper technique and students have the right to receive education and appropriate training should they require it.

3) Are you insured and/or covered? If so, by whom?

Students should not be practicing in an environment that doesn't provide them with any coverage or liability. Schools or respective health care facilities should be providing this.

4) Have you been provided with a drug monograph, ensuring a well-rounded understanding of the vaccine?

Students must be informed of medications prior to administration, and have the right to access this information before administering a vaccine (or any type of medication).

The CNSA Board of Directors also believes that **nursing students should be given high priority to receive the vaccine**. Nursing students contribute in all areas of patient care, and should be recognized as valuable members of the health care team.

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While CNSA fully supports its members with the assistance in this pandemic situation, our utmost concern is that students are practicing in a safe environment, are prepared, and have access to support in their immediate areas. No students should be practicing in unsafe, uninformed and uninsured situations. Furthermore, CNSA recommends to its members that they are aware of their respective institution and/or clinical area's pandemic protocols. Please refer to the Nursing Students' Bill of Rights & Responsibilities at <http://www.cnsa.ca/english/publications/nursing-students-bill-of-rights-and-responsibilities> for further rationale to the above recommendations. **This document has been endorsed by the CNSA Board of Directors.**

About CNSA

The Canadian Nursing Students Association (CNSA) is the voice of nursing students in Canada. For over thirty years, CNSA has represented the interests of nursing students to federal and provincial governments and other nursing organizations. As a member of CNSA, you have the opportunity to interact with other nursing students on educational, professional and social levels. CNSA holds annual national and regional conferences. For more information please visit www.cnsa.ca.

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