Evaluating the Registered Nurse Prescribing Role in Nova Scotia: A Quality Improvement Study Using the Donabedian Model

Melanie Dunlop, Ruth Martin-Misener, Sohani Welcher, Cathy Ann Casault, Nancy Cashen, Jennifer MacDougall, Cindy MacQuarrie, Dr. Audrey Steenbeek and Thien Trang

Appendix

Leadership RNP Implementation Checklist

1. Strategic Planning and Vision

- ☐ Establish a clear shared vision for the role and its purpose within the organization.
- ☐ Align role objectives with organizational priorities (e.g., access to care, quality, retention).
- ☐ Identify and communicate expected outcomes (patient flow, satisfaction, safety, efficiency).

2. Structural Support

- ☐ Ensure protected time for learners and staff during role transition and training.
- ☐ Secure backfill for staff pursuing educational requirements.
- ☐ Integrate role access into EHRs, laboratory and diagnostic systems early.
- ☐ Develop a professional practice leader or designated lead for coordination and oversight.
- ☐ Formalize policies, job descriptions and reporting structures before role launch.

3. Communication and Engagement

- ☐ Initiate early communication with managers, educators, NPs and physicians to build buy-in.
- ☐ Develop and distribute educational materials outlining role scope, limitations and benefits.
- ☐ Engage in regular updates with regulatory bodies, educators and health authorities.
- ☐ Establish feedback mechanisms (surveys, check-ins) to monitor role integration.

4. Education and Competency Development

- ☐ Ensure alignment between education content and real-world clinical needs.
- ☐ Support access to mentorship and communities of practice for ongoing learning.
- ☐ Promote continuing professional development and certification renewal pathways.
- ☐ Address geographic and logistical barriers (e.g., travel for laboratories, access to online resources).

5. System and Policy Advocacy

- ☐ Advocate for standardized provincial policies on prescribing, documentation and discharge authority.
- ☐ Engage in policy dialogue with regulators and decision makers to maintain consistency.
- ☐ Promote interprofessional collaboration to reduce resistance and role confusion.
- ☐ Support evaluation and data collection for continuous quality improvement and evidence building.

6. Workforce Sustainability

- ☐ Monitor and address workload and work–life balance issues during implementation.
- ☐ Encourage recognition of new roles as career advancement opportunities.
- ☐ Foster retention and professional pride through visible support and acknowledgment.
- ☐ Plan for succession and scalability to sustain the role across care settings.

EHRs = electronic health records; NPs = nurse practitioners; RNP = registered nurse prescriber.