

December 24, 2025

**MEMO TO:** Retirement Home Operators and Licensees

**FROM:** Michèle Sanborn, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Policy, Programs and Strategic Partnerships Division  
Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility

**SUBJECT:** Implementation of “As of Right” in Licensed Retirement Homes  
effective January 1, 2026

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I am writing to inform you that amendments to O. Reg. 166/11 under the *Retirement Homes Act, 2010* (RHA) come into force on January 1, 2026. These changes allow out-of-province regulated health professionals practising under the “As of Right” rules to practise in Ontario’s licensed retirement homes. These regulatory amendments arose through the legislative amendments in the *Building a More Competitive Economy Act, 2025*. The regulation amendments aim to reduce barriers to registration and practice for eligible regulated health professionals from other Canadian and American jurisdictions.

Ontario’s “As of Right” rules aim to expedite the process for eligible health care professionals registered and in good standing in other Canadian and American jurisdictions to begin practising in Ontario immediately. Subject to conditions, the “As of Right” rules allow certain health professionals to work in Ontario for up to six months while they seek registration with an Ontario health regulatory college.

These amendments were made to extend Ontario’s “As of Right” rules to eligible health professions in licensed retirement homes and ensure similar treatment between licensed retirement homes and other care settings related to labour mobility and supply. Eligible Canadian-registered health professionals and US board-certified and licensed physicians and licensed nurses may perform the same acts and services in licensed retirement homes authorized to their respective health profession in Ontario for up to six months while awaiting registration with an Ontario health regulatory college. See Appendix A for the full list of eligible professions for licensed retirement homes.

Please note that out-of-province Physician Assistants are currently not eligible “As of Right” professionals enabled to work in licensed retirement homes while the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility (MSAA) explores the possibility of further expansion.

Effective January 1, 2026, amendments to the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, and its regulations enable automatic recognition of Canadian-registered applicants to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) or College of Nurses of Ontario

(CNO). Applicants who are in good standing and of good character may be registered within two business days of application.

In the coming months, MSAA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, will release an updated “As of Right” guidance document to help employers implement this initiative. In the meantime, please refer to the existing guidance document for more information.

If you have any questions, please contact our team at [RHinquiries@ontario.ca](mailto:RHinquiries@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Michèle Sanborn

c: Peter Kaftarian, Deputy Minister, MSAA and MLTC  
Marsha Pinto, Director, Retirement Homes Branch, MSAA  
Lucy Becker, Interim Chief Executive Officer and Registrar, Retirement Homes  
Regulatory Authority  
Cathy Hecimovich, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Retirement Communities  
Association  
Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario

## **Appendix A: “As of Right” Regulated Health Professions Recognized in Ontario’s Licensed Retirement Homes**

For licensed retirement homes, “As of Right” is enabled for eligible of out-of-province professionals including:

1. Audiologists, Speech-language Pathologists
2. Chiropodists
3. Dentists
4. Dental Hygienists
5. Dental Technologists
6. Denturists
7. Dietitians
8. Medical Radiation and Imaging Technologists
9. Midwives
10. Occupational Therapists
11. Opticians
12. Optometrists
13. Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technicians
14. Physiotherapists
15. Psychologists
16. Medical Laboratory Technologists
17. Respiratory Therapists
18. US board-certified and licensed physicians
19. US licensed nurses

\* Canadian-registered Physicians and Nurses will be subject to a process of automatic recognition of their certificate of registration within two business days of application to practise in Ontario as of January 1, 2026 and, therefore, are not part of “As of Right”.