



College of Respiratory
Therapists of Ontario

Ordre des thérapeutes
respiratoires de l'Ontario

INTERPRETATION OF AUTHORIZED ACTS

Practice FAQs

February 2012

QUESTION

The Professional Practice Guideline [Interpretation of Authorized Acts](#) was recently revised (December, 2010). Why was Intraosseous (IO) cannulation not added as an option for a cannula site? The Intensivists at our facility have delegated IO cannulation to the Respiratory Therapists (RTs) at our hospital but the nurses don't require delegation. It seems like an extra step that the RTs need to go through even though IO cannulation is far less invasive than femoral vein or femoral artery cannulation. IO cannulation is also an indicated procedure in the revised [ACLS guidelines \(2010\)](#). RTs should be able to perform procedures that are identified as best practice in ACLS and PALS. Could this please be re-evaluated and revised accordingly?

ANSWER

Thank you for your inquiry about intraosseous (IO) cannulation. It is great to hear that RTs are receiving delegation to perform this controlled act at your facility.

As you know, IO cannulation is an advanced prescribed procedure below the dermis however, it is not one of the advanced prescribed procedures listed in our [Regulation Prescribed Procedures](#) therefore not yet authorized to RTs. The CRTO made a submission to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care in 2010 requesting that our regulation be amended to include IO cannulation as one of the procedures authorized to RTs. At this time however, our submission is still pending approval from the Ministry. Until our regulation is amended to list IO cannulation, RTs will continue to require delegation to perform it. As soon as we hear back from the Ministry we will let our Members know. In the meantime, it is very important the RTs clearly indicate on their **renewal form** that they are receiving delegation to perform IO cannulation. The College collects this data in part, as confirmation that this is a procedure many RTs competently perform and it supports our request to have it listed as one of the advanced prescribed procedure below the dermis authorized to RTs!

Here are the links to our Professional Practice Guidelines on [Advanced Prescribed Procedures click here](#) and [Delegation click here](#). Please ensure that you are competent and have a proper process in place to accept delegation in place before you perform IOC.