



Wednesday, December 03, 2014

Financial Incapability Assessments - Standards, Limits and Conditions

Occupational therapists are now permitted to act as qualified health care providers for the purpose of conducting the functional component of a financial incapability assessment and to provide an opinion about the adult's capability. However, the current limits and conditions require additional education and maintenance of competence.

[Review the details](#) and the download the Scope of Practice Statement for more information.

New Timelines for the Continuing Competence Exam (CCE)

Originally scheduled for late Spring 2015, the CCE will now take place in late January 2016 for all full and provisional registrants. The exact dates will be announced early in the new year. The College is providing a year's notice to help prevent conflicts for occupational therapists.

Why everyone?

Each of the four practice contexts (physical health, neurological health, mental health, and child and youth health) is associated with its own exam.

Ensuring a large sample in each exam is challenging if only 50% of our registrants participate. Placing everyone into the first administration will increase the reliability of our results and put us back on track with our original timelines. The CCE was originally estimated to be ready in 2014. Delays occurred due to the re-development of the Competence Maintenance element of the Quality Assurance Program and the complexities of delivering a program in a secure and online environment.

Occupational therapists receiving deferrals/waivers will remain the same and include registrants who

- are successful Pilot test takers,
- take the National Occupational Therapy Certification Exam (NOTCE) in



Happy Holidays

Our office will be closed from 2:00 pm on December 24 until 8 am January 5. COTBC wishes you a safe and happy holiday season.

New and Returning Board Members

Although there was no election this year, COTBC is pleased to announce that **Joy Parsons**, Rehabilitation Program Leader for Fraser Health, will be joining the Board at the end of January. Occupational therapists **Lindsey McMitchell** and **Darlene Russell** were also acclaimed, and begin their second and third terms respectively.

Thank You to Pilot Testers

Many thanks to the 75 occupational therapists and

2015,

- submit non-clinical declarations which are approved, and
- are case writers or members of the Exam Technical Panel.

In the next year additional resources will be developed to assist occupational therapists who feel they need support in preparing for the CCE. Orientation materials as well as exam content was evaluated by the Pilot Test participants, and once analyzed will help inform further improvements.

Resources Available Now on the CCE Info Page...

1. [QAP Framework](#) which includes the program purpose, mandate, guiding principles and program development milestones.
2. [QAP Blueprint](#) which supports the development, delivery and evaluation of the program. By applying the blueprint to all elements, the College ensures the content focuses on the competencies necessary for occupational therapists to provide safe, ethical and quality care. The blueprint also illustrates the relative importance of each area of competence to be addressed in the program, and in particular the Continuing Competence Exam (CCE). The appendix of the blueprint provides descriptions of the four practice contexts.
3. [QAP Resources](#) that case writers have used to support the cases, questions and answers. If you are looking for resources to help keep you up-to-date, you'll find this list quite comprehensive. Not only does it pull the resources available for each of the regulatory topics in the QAP blueprint, it also lists several practice resources for each of the practice contexts. This list is updated regularly as new resources are used.
4. [Sample exam questions](#) in each practice context. Pilot testers found this helpful in understanding what types of questions to expect as well as which practice context best matches their practice.

Questions can be directed to gaprogram@cotbc.org.

Welcoming Andrea Bowden



On December 1st occupational therapist Andrea Bowden joined the College as our Practice and Policy Consultant. Andrea was seconded from her role as a practice consultant with the Island Health's Professional Practice team. In this role she worked with an interprofessional team to provide information, support, evidence and strategic advice to practice leaders and organizational partners.

Prior to this role, Andrea worked with the Professional Practice's Learning and Performance Support team to help design and develop learning materials and resources. She is currently studying in the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program through the University of Victoria. Andrea is a former Board director and Registration Committee member.

We are looking forward to her expertise, and with it our increased capacity

their proctors who participated in Pilot Testing of the Continuing Competence Exam in October. Analysis is currently underway and results should be ready mid-January. Both the occupational therapists and their proctors have provided thoughtful, detailed and respectful feedback to help us continue developing this new measurement tool.

Fond Farewell to Jill Langridge

This past summer College Staff attended a luncheon to honour Jill Langridge, who began working for the College when its first office was established in 2001. In the beginning it was just the registrar Kathy Corbett and Jill, and many of the registration processes in place today are a result of Jill's careful management. Jill excelled at assisting new applicants with their registration and managing our registrant database. Although Jill is greatly missed, we wish her all the best as she relaxes and contemplates her next move. Lucky Jill!

Registration Committee Member Needed

Are you interested in serving on a College committee?

to support quality practice.

Not Just One but Six New Practice Standards

The COTBC Standards Committee has developed a series of practice standards to help occupational therapists manage client information. The standards outline the expectations in six specific areas.

'Find and review' the standard most applicable to the 'issue at hand', or download the entire series on the [COTBC website](#).

1. Collecting and Recording Client Information
2. Protecting Client Information (Privacy and Security)
3. Client Access to the Occupational Therapy Record
4. Disclosing the Occupational Therapy Record
5. Records Respecting Financial Matters
6. Retention and Destruction of the Occupational Therapy Record



The risk assessment and management tool is also available to help you identify and manage risks regarding the management of client information.

Watch in the New Year for audio tips to help apply each of these standards to your practice. These will be based on issues raised and questions received at the College.

The College welcomes any feedback/questions. Please [email Cindy McLean, Deputy Registrar](#).

Introducing the Substantial Equivalency Assessment System



Beginning on May 1, 2015, all internationally-educated occupational therapists (IEOTs) wanting to register for practice anywhere in Canada (except in Quebec) will follow a common assessment process and be held to a single assessment standard.

The Registration Committee needs your help. Complete the [Expression of Interest Form](#) found on the College website. Registrar [Kathy Corbett](#) is also happy to discuss the responsibilities further.

Keep Your Email Address Current

Information from COTBC is sent to your email address on file. To avoid missing important news and notices, [please check](#) that your email address is current.

BC Has Highest Immigration Rates for OTs

In 2012, over 17% of COTBC registrants were educated outside of Canada – well above the Canadian statistic of 7% (CIHI, 2012). Over the past five years, COTBC reviewed 173 applications representing 21 countries. Since July of this year, we have processed applications for 15 IEOTs, 47 OTs educated outside of BC, and 38 UBC graduates. There are also another 25 applications in process, 12 of which are from international applicants.

When the Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy Regulatory Organizations (ACOTRO) launches its new assessment process, the Substantial Equivalency Assessment System (SEAS), all internationally-educated applicants, including Canadians who have received their occupational therapy education outside Canada, will engage in a multi-step assessment process that evaluates their educational qualifications and competencies. Once applicants have been assessed through SEAS, they can apply to a provincial occupational therapy regulatory organization, like COTBC, for registration.

Prior to SEAS, occupational therapy regulators, like the majority of professional health regulators in Canada, used different processes to assess IEOT applications. For example, they used different language fluency tests and standards, and had different ways of assessing academic credentials. To better ensure consistency, safety and fairness in the assessment system, all ten OT regulators in Canada came together through the Harmonization Project, which sought not only to create a common approach to IEOT assessment, but also to better recognize the knowledge and skills that IEOTs have gained through their education and work experience. The result was SEAS, an innovative approach to assessing internationally-educated health professionals.

SEAS measures the extent to which the educational qualifications and competencies of an IEOT are substantially equivalent to those of an OT educated in Canada. "Substantially equivalent" means that while an IEOT's education doesn't need to be identical to that of an OT educated in Canada, it needs to be equivalent in some essential ways. The system looks at qualifications and competencies to determine that equivalence.

This new assessment approach has several stages. SEAS looks at the education that IEOTs originally completed by reviewing their academic credentials and course content materials, and allows them to demonstrate what they know and can do by engaging them in a day-long competency assessment interview. It also includes an open-book Jurisprudence Knowledge Assessment Test that helps build their knowledge about Canadian legislation, ethics and standards. All applicants will also be required to prove that they have the language skills needed to work as an OT in Canada.

BC, which registers more than 20 new IEOTs each year, and is the second highest recipient of IEOTs in Canada after Ontario, has been instrumental in SEAS' development since its inception in 2010. COTBC houses the Harmonization Project, and its manager, Rita Parikh, for example plays the role of lead administrator for the project. Equally important, British Columbians made up close to half the number of OTs – more than two hundred – who have provided critical input to the project at each stage in its development. For instance, BC OTs have written exam items for the competency assessment and jurisprudence tests, OT students at UBC have pilot tested the open-book exam, and experienced OTs have helped determine which competencies are of the greatest importance and how to direct remediation and upgrading.

The end result?

ACOTRO's new assessment system, the first of its kind in the health profession in Canada, is a fairer, more objective, transparent and consistent way of evaluating all IEOTs wanting to practice in Canada, and will help better ensure that they meet the minimum level of competence for safe and ethical practice.

For further information [email ACOTRO's project manager Rita Parikh](#).

Building an International Network of Occupational Therapy Regulators

COTBC Registrar Kathy Corbett

On June 11-13, 2014, I had the privilege of representing Canada, along with Elinor Larney, Registrar of the

College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario at the first international occupational therapy regulatory forum held in London, UK. Through the vision, leadership and generous sponsorship of the US National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT), forty representatives from eighteen countries came together to share experiences, identify emerging issues in occupational therapy regulation and, ultimately to grow a global occupational therapy (OT) regulatory community.

Presentations and discussions explored topics such as regulatory systems and governance, scope and standards of practice, accreditation, qualification recognition and global mobility, and continuing competency. While the complexity of the topics and the noted variations in regulatory oversight across the world was at times, somewhat daunting, there were areas of interest for future collaboration.

A look at our BC registration statistics can situate the importance of nurturing a global perspective. We continue to rely on occupational therapists from other provinces and other countries to meet our workforce demands. In 2012, over 17% of COTBC registrants were educated outside of Canada – well above the Canadian statistic of 7% (CIHI, 2012). Over the past four years, COTBC reviewed 150 applications from applicants representing 19 countries. International mobility is a reality and we need to advance the conversations on international cooperation and collaboration where possible.

The experience in London was inspiring. There were representatives from around the world including Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Finland, Malta, Sweden, India, Iran, Ireland, New Zealand, Philippines, Portugal, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States. NBCOT COE Paul Grace set the challenge: "...it's now up to the community of worldwide OT regulators and industry leaders to define where it goes from here". We are up to the challenge, indeed it is an imperative.

Hosting the AGM Close to Home

COTBC Board Chair Diane Graham

The 2014 COTBC Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in Kelowna at the beautiful lakeside Manteo Resort and Conference Centre. A first time outside Victoria or the Lower Mainland, the AGM drew 45 attendees. The idea of moving the AGM around the province had been discussed by the Board for many years. It was great to see this finally come about with the support of the Board, the Staff of COTBC and the occupational therapists who attended.

As a resident of Kelowna, I was able to connect with many of my local colleagues, and my travel time to and from the meeting was greatly reduced! Many attendees expressed their appreciation for a great day and local AGM.



The workshop was led by the COTBC Standards Committee. The information gathered will help

COTBC's pre-AGM workshop *Conflict of Interest in OT Practice - What does it look like?*

News from UBC

Catherine Backman, head of the UBC's Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy ([OS&OT](#)) provided an informal update and answered questions about the program.

FACT: With only 48 seats, UBC is the smallest English language occupational therapy school in Canada. The College registered 165 occupational therapists last year, so BC relies heavily on occupational therapists emigrating

develop our next set of Practice Standards on Conflict of Interest.

Have you checked out our newest standards on [Managing Client Information](#)?



COTBC'S Quality Assurance Program

Two Quality Assurance Program updates were offered to occupational therapists over the course of the two days.

Preliminary stats from the 2014 Annual Competence Review (ACR) were presented:

- 81% indicated this year's ACR will guide their continuing competence in the next year.
- 62% indicated that last year's ACR helped to guide at least one aspect of their continuing competence.

Participants asked excellent questions about the Continuing Competence Exam and Competence Improvement phases of the program. If you would like the College to present on the QAP, email gaprogram@cotbc.ca.

from other parts of Canada and internationally to meet the workforce demands.



CAOT-BC in Kelowna

Managing Director Giovanna Boniface provided a summary of the exciting work of CAOT-BC and shared that 62% of COTBC registrants are also members of CAOT-BC. Congratulations to Susan Bonney, who received the CAOT-BC OT of the Year Award from CAOT-BC's Advisory Committee Chair Andrea McNeill. You can read more about Susan on the [CAOT-BC blog](#).

This year's CAOT Citation award was received by [Disability Alliance BC](#) (formerly the British Columbia Coalition of People with Disabilities) and presented by CAOT's BC Board Director Les Smith. For over 35 years, their staff and volunteers showed their dedication to supporting people with disabilities to live with dignity, and independence as equal and full participants in the community and to participate in meaningful occupations.

www.cotbc.org

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