

# FACT SHEET

## Quality Assurance Program Evaluation



### Project One: Exploring competence assessment of occupational therapists in nonclinical roles

#### PURPOSE

To inform the development of an assessment, to be used in COTBC Quality Assurance Program, for occupational therapists in nonclinical roles.

#### METHODS

- Conduct focus groups to explore views regarding what would be a fair and reasonable assessment of occupational therapists' practice in nonclinical roles.
- Evaluators summarize and participants validate the information gathered.

#### PARTICIPANTS

- (1) occupational therapists who received nonclinical exemptions from the recent COTBC Quality Assurance Program's Continuing Competence Exam; and
- (2) members of the public (former and current public board members and representatives).

#### TIMELINES

January	February	March	April	May	June	July
Contract awarded	Participant Recruitment	Focus Groups	Follow-up/validation of summary findings	Overall summary of process and outcomes for review	Final Project Report completed, including identification of topics for further study.	Fine edits & communication re: report findings and recommendations

#### FUNDING

College of Occupational Therapists of British Columbia (COTBC)

#### EVALUATORS

SGT & Associates Consulting, Toronto, Ontario  
Principal: Dr. Susan Glover-Takahashi; Team: Dr. Marla Nayer and Jenny Rizk

#### OVERSIGHT

COTBC Quality Assurance Committee – QAP Evaluation Advisory Group

#### CONTACT

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE REVERSE**

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Mandate**

The College of Occupational Therapists of British Columbia (COTBC) is the organization responsible for regulating the profession in the province. The duties and obligations are outlined in the *Health Professions Act* and the *Occupational Therapists Regulation*. Our primary role is to ensure the public receives safe, ethical and effective occupational therapy services. One of the ways in which we meet our responsibilities is the administration of a Quality Assurance Program.

### **Quality Assurance Program Evaluation**

COTBC is committed to advancing the quality of its programs and services through ongoing evaluation. As the College approaches the completion of the first cycle of its Quality Assurance Program (QAP), it is examining the impact of current policies, procedures, and practices on program outcomes. Any proposed changes to the QAP framework and blueprint would be sent to the COTBC Board in 2019 for approval.

### **Rationale for this Evaluation**

The competence assessment component of the QAP requires occupational therapists to pass the Continuing Competence Exam (CCE), which is held every six years beginning in 2016. Passing the CCE is the continuing competency requirement to renew their registration in that year. For occupational therapists to practice in BC and use the title “Occupational Therapist” they must be registered with the College.

During the 2016 CCE administration, 68 occupational therapists in nonclinical roles<sup>1</sup> received exemptions from writing the CCE, as the exam was designed for occupational therapists whose primary role was direct client/patient care. However, given that competency requirements apply to all registrants and that occupational therapists could assume any role, a method of assessment(s) for occupational therapists in nonclinical roles is necessary. The Quality Assurance Committee would like to explore what occupational therapists who received the nonclinical exemptions, as well as members of the public, feel would be a fair and reasonable assessment of their practice. They look forward to learning from these insights, which will provide important information to guide improvements to the program.

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<sup>1</sup> ...professions are comprised of individuals who are facilitators (Houle, 1990), (for example, occupational therapists whose practice includes the provision of services such as education, research, regulation, policy development, professional leadership). These positions offer important contributions in the development and advancement of the profession. Individuals holding these positions should continue to utilize the professional designation of “Occupational Therapist” along with their job title such as professor, researcher, manager, or policy maker. (*Position Statement: Professional identity, individual responsibility and public accountability through the use of title in occupational therapy*, ACOTRO, ACOTUP, CAOT, COTBC, & OTPAC, 2013.)