

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In its latest newsletter to College members and stakeholders, the College of Occupational Therapists has asked for examples of conflict of interest situations that readers/members are aware of; what are their thoughts on the issue; situations should be permissible; what practices should be prevented.

The College has asked for comments (if possible, by July 15, 2005) by email to the Deputy Registrar, Susan James, at sjames@coto.org, or by fax to her at 416-214-1173. As the College points out in its article, it is expected that the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care will provide conflict of interest guidelines for Health Regulatory Colleges to use in the drafting of regulations in the near future. The College of Occupational Therapists will then be in a position to define the specific rules and expectations related to conflict of interest for occupational therapists.

As we know, there are conflict of interest rules in the Statutory Accident Benefit Schedule, which apply to occupational therapists and others.

We should make sure that the casualty claims managers and others in our respective insurance companies are aware of the need to make our views and concerns known. The time for us to act is NOW. Certainly, there is education that needs to be done by the professional health colleges to make members aware of their duties to question referral sources and report conflicts of interest to insurers under the SABS.