

Occupational Therapist/Physiotherapist Support Personnel Education Accreditation Program

Update - June 2010

The development of the Occupational Therapist/Physiotherapist Support Personnel Education Accreditation Program (OT/PT SPEAP), a partnership initiative between the Accreditation Council for Canadian Physiotherapy Academic Programs (ACCPAP) and the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) has made significant gains over the past ten months. Activities include:

I. COMMITTEES

A number of committees have been struck to carry out OT/PT SPEAP activities including:

1. OT/PT SPEAP Steering Committee

- Membership consists of the Executive Director ACCPAP, the Director of Standards CAOT and the Program Manager OT/PT SPEAP
- Reports to ACCPAP and CAOT
- Oversees activities related to the development and implementation of the support personnel education accreditation program

2. Standards Development Working Group

- Membership consists of 11 representatives including: OTA/PTA Educators – 2 OT, 2 PT (4); OTA/PTA /RA support personnel (3); OT, PT practitioners (2); ACCPAP representative (1); and CAOT representative (1)
- Reports to the Steering Committee
- Mandate is to serve as content experts for development of the accreditation standards

3. OT/PT SPEAP Advisory Committee

- Membership consists of representation from stakeholder groups including: ACCPAP, CAOT, CPA, Canadian Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistant Educators' Council (COPEC), The Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators, the Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy Regulatory Organizations (ACOTRO) and a representative from Quebec
- Mandate is to provide input to the support personnel education accreditation standards and processes throughout their development and to serve as a communication link, as appropriate, to their respective stakeholder groups

II. STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

- Standards development has been taking place since September 2009. The standards are based on a 5 + 1 model in which the first five standards are considered common to accreditation of professional education programs (Program and Its Environment; Faculty; Students; Program Evaluation; and Accountability).

- The “+1” component, or the profession-specific standard of the model, was based on nationally established competencies for occupational therapist and physiotherapist support personnel ((Practice Profile for Support Personnel in Occupational Therapy, CAOT 2009 and Competency Profile - Essential Competencies of Physiotherapist Support Workers in Canada, Alliance and CPA 2002). The 6th standard uses the ‘CanMeds’ format.
- Draft 1 of the Standards was developed by December 2009 and reviewed by the Steering Committee and the Standards Development Working Group (SDWG) (January, 2010).
- Focus group consultation run by each member of the SDWG took place in February/March 2010. Eleven focus groups were run across the country with wide and varied stakeholder representation.
- Integration of the focus group feedback took place in April/May with the development of Draft 2 of the Standards which was reviewed by the Steering Committee, the SDWG and the Advisory Committee in May 2010.
- An online survey to solicit wide stakeholder input to the Standards Draft 2 was sent out June 2010. Feedback from the survey will be integrated into Draft 3 of the Standards.
- It is anticipated that Draft 3 of the Standards will be distributed to the Support Personnel Education Programs and ACCPAP and CAOT for ratification in the Fall 2010.

III. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Documents are being developed to provide information regarding the OT/PT SPEAP, its activities and processes. These include: a communication guide, an accreditation fact sheet and policies related to governance, scheduling and candidacy. A website, presently under development, will provide stakeholders with more information related to the OTPT SPEAP (expected completion Fall 2010).

IV. Next Steps

Next steps include:

- Finalize the accreditation standards (Summer/Fall 2010)
- Distribute the standards to the support personnel educational programs (Fall 2010)
- Ratification of the standards by ACCPAP and CAOT (Fall 2010)
- Provide education sessions to the educational programs (Fall 2010/Winter 2011)
- Develop and finalize policies and procedures (Ongoing)
- Develop on-site accreditation review schedule (Fall 2010)
- Recruit, educate on-site review team members (Spring 2011)

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