



Engaging ♦ Encouraging ♦ Ensuring

The New Vision of the CRTO Quality Assurance Program

Dear Members and Colleagues:

Over the past two years the Quality Assurance Committee has embarked on a number of initiatives including an evaluation of the QA Program, and comparisons of the CRTO Program components and Member results to those of other regulated health professions. The outcomes generated three key themes in continuing competence:

♦ Engaging ♦

Each year the CRTO randomly selects Members to submit their Professional Portfolios and complete the Professional Standards Assessment, and from 2004-2008 the Quality Assurance Committee and Council has reported that 90%* of Members meet or exceed the expectations. Clearly, Respiratory Therapists are engaged in lifelong learning and are committed to having a positive impact on patient outcomes.

The CRTO is seeking new ways to engage Members and promote the exciting projects the Quality Assurance Committee has planned. The benefit of being self-regulated is the opportunity to provide input and ultimately have an impact on the direction of the College.

♦ Encouraging ♦

In recognition of Members' dedication, the CRTO is announcing new QA Program initiatives aimed at encouraging mentoring, inter-professional collaboration and technologies to support professional development, such as an online Portfolio.

The College is also developing new approaches to encourage those Members who may find the Quality Assurance requirements challenging, to reach out for assistance.

♦ Ensuring ♦

The QA Committee believes that working collaboratively with Members is the best way to ensure that the highest standards of care are delivered to Ontario patients while meeting the CRTO's mandate of public protection.



* ± 2.5%

What kind of Quality Assurance support can RTs expect from the CRTO?

CRTO staff are available by phone or email to answer any questions you may have about the Quality Assurance Program requirements. They are also pleased to arrange webinars or come to your place of work to present Portfolio workshops or discuss the QA Program and processes.

Members who have trouble achieving the minimum expectations may be given the opportunity to meet with CRTO staff one-on-one so that they can receive assistance that is specific to their needs.

Are there any new initiatives that will make participating in continuing education or professional development easier for me?

The CRTO is working towards developing an online, or web-based, Professional Portfolio. By applying this technology to the Portfolio process, Members will be able to login at any time to update their CE/PD activities.

The College is also committed to keeping Members informed of any respiratory-related conferences or events that may enhance their practice. Check the CRTO web site under “Professional Practice” for regular updates.

I would like to become more involved, but I don't want to have to commit to too many days – are there any volunteer opportunities that only require a day or two each year?

The easiest and least time consuming way for Members to participate is to respond to CRTO surveys and consultation papers. This way your voice is heard and you don't have to commit to any time away from work or home.

The QA Committee also appoints Portfolio Reviewers, which requires attendance at a one day training session in Toronto plus approximately 12-20 hours of work (at your home) over a two-month period in the fall.

In addition to Portfolio Reviewers there are two Working Groups that support the continued success of the Professional Standards Assessment. One group of RTs is needed to write new questions for the PSA and another group of RTs is needed to review Members' results on the PSA. These Groups only meet for one or two days each year.

A per diem is paid for each of these three roles.

The College would welcome any comments regarding this Communiqué. Please submit your remarks by Friday, May 29th, 2009.

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