



College of Respiratory  
Therapists of Ontario

Ordre des thérapeutes  
respiratoires de l'Ontario

# NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE QA PROGRAM

Practice FAQs

February 2016

## QUESTION

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What happens if an RT simply decides not to participate in the CRTO's QA Program?

## ANSWER

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There are two factors to consider when reflecting on why a Respiratory Therapist (whether they are an RRT, GRT or PRT) should participate in the CRTO's QA Program. One is the legislative (legal) reason, and the other is the principle upon which the legislation is based.

Speaking from a strictly legal perspective, participation in the CRTO's QA Program is a mandatory element of an RT's certificate of registration with the CRTO. The [Quality Assurance](#) regulation, which was established under the [Respiratory Therapy Act](#), states the following:

- 35. (1) every member shall, in the form and manner required by the College,**
- (a) Participate in professional development activities, including a professional development cycle; and*
  - (b) Conduct self-assessments of his or her knowledge, skill and judgment.*
- (2) Every member shall, in the form and manner required by the College, maintain records of his or her professional development activities and self-assessments.*
- (3) At the request of an assessor, the Committee or an employee of the College, a member shall provide to the College within the time period specified in the request or, where no time period is specified, within 30 days after receiving the request, his or her records described in subsection (2).*

The CRTO is committed to doing everything in its powers to assist its Member in successfully completing these requirements. However, failure on a Member's part to comply with a request from the CRTO to submit specified professional development records can ultimately result in a referral from the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) to the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (ICRC). This referral is



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based on the fact that such an act of non-compliance violates the CRTO's [Profession Misconduct](#) regulations by:

24. *Contravening the Act, the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991 or the regulations under either of those Acts.*

If the ICRC agrees with the QAC's assertion of professional misconduct, they will ask the Registrar to appoint an investigator. After the investigation is conducted, the matter may be referred to a panel of the CRTO Discipline Committee, which has within its power to revoke a Member's certificate of registration – simply because they decided not to participate in the CRTO's QA Program.

So the legislative part is pretty clear. The principle upon which the legislation is based, however, is an equally (if not greater) consideration. As regulated healthcare professionals, ongoing maintenance of existing competencies – as well as the acquisition of new knowledge and skills - is essential for the provision of optimal patient care. I think it would be very difficult for anyone to argue that the principal of ongoing competency was not an essential professional obligation. The legislation is in place merely as a mean of verifying that this professional development is occurring on a continuing basis. It is what we expect from the healthcare professionals who care for us and our families, and it's what our patients expect of us.