



Office of the Auditor General of Ontario
Bureau du vérificateur général de l'Ontario

JAN 25 2010

January 21, 2010

Mr. Kevlin Taylor, President
Ms. Christine Robinson, Registrar
College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario
180 Dundas Street West, Suite 2103
Toronto, Ontario
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Dear Mr. Taylor and Ms. Robinson:

I am writing in response to your letter dated January 11, 2010, in which you express concerns that our recent report on the Assistive Devices Program “has suggested that vendor-employed Respiratory Therapists might not be able to objectively assess patients’ oxygen requirement.” You were concerned that “this assertion is counter to the standards and guidelines that govern(s) the practice of Respiratory Therapy in Ontario.”

I can assure you that our report was not directed at questioning the professional conduct of your members or their compliance with standards and guidelines established by the College. Specifically, over one-third of the files reviewed by my staff showed no assessment on home-oxygen clients had been done for more than 18 months (when annual assessments were required), no test results had been recorded, or the results indicated that the clients no longer met the eligibility criteria. However, it is quite probable that assessments were not done because the assessments had not been assigned by the vendors to your members, who happened to be the employees of the vendors. We were not implying they did assessments in contravention of their professional standards.

We agree with your observation regarding the “significant barrier to judicious oxygen titration and discontinuation” experienced by your members, due to the requirement for a direct order from a physician. With the recent Royal Assent given to the *Regulated Health Professions Statute Law Amendment Act*, hopefully your members will be able to discharge their responsibilities more effectively.

Your point on the recently amended regulations under the *Long Term Care Act* (Ont. Reg. 386/99 – Provision of Community Services) is well taken. I anticipate that the new regulation amendments allowing CCACs to contract services of your members should provide more opportunity for your members to provide their services on a more independent basis.

Sincerely

Jim McCarter
Auditor General

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