



College of Respiratory
Therapists of Ontario

Ordre des thérapeutes
respiratoires de l'Ontario

STATUTORY COMMITTEE

Fact Sheet

The seven statutory committees under the *Regulated Health Professions Act* are:

1. Discipline,
 2. Executive,
 3. Fitness to Practise,
 4. Inquiries, Complaints & Reports,
 5. Patient Relations,
 6. Quality Assurance, and
 7. Registration.
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Non-statutory committees may be created by the CRTO Council in accordance with the By-Laws. For example, the Professional Practice Committee meets on an ad hoc basis to address a specific need such as the development of a new Practice Guideline.

What are “statutory” committees?

Statutory committees are those committees that have been named in legislation (i.e., statute) and which the CRTO is required to have in order to fulfill its mandate.

Discipline

The **Discipline Committee** holds formal discipline hearings of specified allegations of professional misconduct or incompetence which are referred from the Inquiries, Complaints & Reports Committee (ICRC). A panel, or sub-group of the Committee, must consist of at least three members of the Discipline Committee, two of whom must be public members of Council according to the RHPA. The CRTO typically appoints five (5) Committee members to a panel who will hear a case against a Respiratory Therapist.

The Discipline Committee has a procedural guide and additional training is offered to Committee Members twice-annually through the Federation of Health Regulatory Colleges.

Executive

The **Executive Committee** is composed of three profession members and two public members who hold the positions of President, Vice-President and Executive Members at Large.

Executive Committee members are elected by the Council at the first Council meeting following regional elections each autumn. Between Council meetings, the Executive Committee acts on behalf of the CRTO Council and is accountable to Council for the decisions and actions it takes.

Fitness to Practise

The **Fitness to Practise Committee** is responsible for conducting hearings into allegations of mental and/or physical incapacity of Respiratory Therapists. A Fitness to Practise hearing is only required if a Member, who the Committee believes may be unfit to practice respiratory therapy safely, competently or ethically, is unwilling to cooperate with the CRTO or does not recognize that his or her current condition is putting patients and their own health at risk.



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The Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA) includes a “schedule” called the Health Professions Procedural Code that describes in greater detail the authority and some processes that statutory Committees have.

The membership of the Fitness to Practise and Discipline Committees are usually identical as allegations against a Member would not be referred to both Fitness and Discipline; ICRC would refer to one Committee or the other.

ICRC

The **Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee** is responsible for investigating complaints (from the patients, their families or other healthcare professionals) and reports (from employers or Members themselves) about the conduct or actions of Respiratory Therapists. Reported concerns are reviewed by a panel which is composed of at least three Committee members, one of whom must be a public member of Council.

The ICRC is considered a screening committee. It does not have the authority to make findings of guilt. Its role is generally to ensure that Members obtain and maintain the standards of the profession. If concerns are of a serious nature, or allegations of a similar nature have been brought forward about a Respiratory Therapist previously, the panel may refer the case to the Discipline Committee for a hearing.

Patient Relations

The **Patient Relations Committee** is responsible for the CRTO's Patient Relations, Communications and French Language Services Programs.

QA

The **Quality Assurance Committee** is responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring a Quality Assurance Program which promotes continuing competence and continuing quality improvement among Respiratory Therapists.

Registration

The **Registration Committee** is responsible for monitoring trends, developing policies and advising Council on issues related to entry-to-practice and registration requirements (e.g., approval of Respiratory Therapy educational programs).

Panels of the Registration Committee review applications for registration from individuals who wish to become members of the CRTO but do not meet the registration requirements according to legislation. The panels may also consider applications by Members to remove or modify terms, conditions and limitations imposed on their certificates of registration. Decisions made by the panels may be appealed to the *Health Professions Appeal and Review Board*.

For more information on CRTO Committees please contact us.