



Canadian Alliance of
Physiotherapy Regulators

Alliance canadienne des organismes de
réglementation de la physiothérapie

Profession-Based Language Assessment in Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy

Project Update – September, 2009

As you may be aware, the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (The Alliance), in partnership with the College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario (COTO) and the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario (CPO), has received funding from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI) to develop a single profession-specific language tool applicable to both occupational therapy and physiotherapy. This project is divided into two phases. The first is a benchmarking initiative aimed at characterizing language use in occupational therapy and physiotherapy work environments. In the second phase, a profession-specific language tool will be developed and validated based on the findings from the benchmarking exercise.

Recently, The Alliance solicited bids from individuals/firms capable of performing an in-depth analysis of language use in the workplace. Based on a competitive review of the proposals received, the contract was awarded to the Canadian Centre for Language Benchmarks (CCLB) of Ottawa. Over the next 10 months CCLB will be conducting a series of observations, interviews and focus groups designed to describe and deconstruct the professional use of communication across the four language skills – speaking, listening, writing, and reading. Observations are to take place in locations across Ontario in a variety of different practice environments: home care, hospitals, private practice, paediatric and long-term care centres.

Findings from this phase will be shared at a meeting of key stakeholders, tentatively scheduled for early 2010. Feedback from this meeting will help to inform the second component of the initiative – the development of a profession-specific language assessment tool which is expected to be completed by the middle of 2011. This tool will be field tested on a representative sample of internationally educated occupational therapists and physiotherapists as well as their Canadian educated counterparts to ensure its efficacy.

Ongoing updates will be provided on The Alliance website. If you have any questions questions/comments related to this project, feel free to contact the Project Manager, Keith Johnson at project@alliancept.org.