



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, 2010

In February, 2009, 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), 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 consists of two phases. The first, which has been recently completed, involved a benchmarking initiative aimed at characterizing language use in occupational therapy and physiotherapy work environments. During 2009 and 2010 the Canadian Centre for Language Benchmarks (CCLB) and their affiliates conducted a series of observations across Canada in a variety of practice settings that included hospitals, private practice clinics, and paediatric and long-term care centres. This data was compiled and analyzed by language experts in an effort to describe and deconstruct the professional use of communication across the four language skills – speaking, listening, writing, and reading.

The objective of the second phase of the project is the development of a profession-specific language assessment tool, suitable for internationally educated occupational therapists and physiotherapists, based on the metrics set out in the CCLB report. The Alliance has recently engaged Fusion Global Education (FGE) for this purpose. Over the next 12 months, FGE will develop, validate and refine the language assessment tool. Additional content experts will be retained to ensure that the tool is grounded in the practice of occupational therapy and physiotherapy. To ensure efficacy, reliability and applicability, the assessment tool will be field tested on approximately 50 Canadian and internationally educated practitioners.

If you have any questions or comments related to this project, feel free to contact the Project Manager, Keith Johnson at project@alliancept.org.