



Alberta College of Occupational Therapists

eNews

## August 2010 eNews

### Delivery of Services relating to the Use of Motor Vehicles: Guide for Occupational Therapists

In 2010, CAOT and ACOTRO entered a mutual agreement to provide funds to translate with permission a document entitled, "Interventions relatives à l'utilisation d'un véhicule routier, Guide de ergothérapeute (Ordre des ergothérapeutes du Québec, 2008)". CAOT and ACOTRO have offered to distribute this translated work to its members without charge. College members can retrieve the English translation entitled, **Delivery of services relating to the use of motor vehicles: Guide for Occupational Therapists** under Resources> Professional Standards at [www.acot.ca](http://www.acot.ca) or [click here](#).

When citing this document, please use the following reference: *Ordre des ergothérapeutes du Québec (2010). Delivery of services relating to the use of motor vehicles: Guide for occupational therapists (ACOTRO & CAOT, Trans.). Quebec: OEQ. (Original work published 2008).*

### Health Literacy: Skills for Occupational Therapists who Work with Children

A new website provides resources and information to help occupational therapists achieve best-practice in health literacy and in applying health literacy skills for specific client groups. The website content includes information and resources on health literacy skills for childhood pain and disordered sleep. This resource is sponsored by the Department of Occupational Therapy, University of Alberta and is based on needs identified by pediatric occupational therapists in Alberta, Ontario and Nova Scotia.

The website is at [www.OThealthliteracy.ualberta.ca](http://www.OThealthliteracy.ualberta.ca). In addition to resources for practice, the website also offers professional development opportunities to participate in online health literacy tutorials and learning activities that apply health literacy strategies when working with children who have pain and/or sleep problems.

### Creating a Framework for Canada's first Provincial Caregiver Strategy

The Alberta Caregivers Association is conducting a consultation with family caregivers and the professionals/organizations who work with them to learn more about the issues caregivers face. This consultation consists of a survey and two conventions that will take place in October. The survey will

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focus on eight key areas including community-based supports, system navigation and respite. Given that occupational therapists provide a valuable service for family caregivers and their care recipients, the Association would like to ensure that caregivers who access these services are well represented.

The conventions will be used as a venue to discuss solutions to the issues identified by the survey and create a framework for Canada's first Provincial Caregiver Strategy. Further information and a link to the survey is available at [www.albertacaregivers.org/convention2010.html](http://www.albertacaregivers.org/convention2010.html) or contact the Alberta Caregivers Association at 1-877-453-5088.

## New SAOT Website

SAOT is excited to unveil a fresh new look, new features and added online benefits for occupational therapists and the public at [www.saot.ca](http://www.saot.ca). Note that some features relevant to occupational therapists are now available exclusively to SAOT members. Members can log in to review current job postings for Alberta occupational therapists, network with colleagues or request mentorship support. Albertans can search for occupational therapists working in private practice through the new searchable database. Health tips are available online on a variety of topics.

## SAOT 2010 Symposium and Annual General Meeting

Several concurrent presentation/education sessions will be offered, as well as an opportunity to network with colleagues at the luncheon. Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 23 at Edmonton General Hospital. *Details to follow.*

## Testing an Assessment Measure for Minimally Responsive Adults following Brain Injury

The Association for the Rehabilitation of the Brain Injured (ARBI) team found that existing assessment measures lack sufficient responsiveness to detect changes in individuals with the most severe brain injury. ARBI's therapists including physiotherapists, occupational therapists and speech- language pathologists responded to this need by developing a highly sensitive assessment measure – the Comprehensive Assessment Measure for Minimally Responsive Individuals (CAMMRI).

The CAMMRI is an integrated, functional measure developed to objectively identify and track the incremental changes in adults who demonstrate minimal responsiveness to their environment (Rancho Level II – III) as a result of severe acquired brain injury. The team is hopeful that the results of the CAMMRI testing will enable further research, providing standardized description of this population of individuals with severe acquired brain injury.

### **The team are seeking more potential clients interested in participating in this research project.**

INCLUSION CRITERIA: age 18-65; severe acquired brain injury; current functioning at Rancho Level II or III (Rancho Los Amigos Levels of Cognitive Functioning Scale); and must be medically stable. For more information, contact:

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## Protection for Persons in Care Act

The new *Protection for Persons in Care Act* was proclaimed July 1, 2010. The legislation replaces the former Act with improvements that include increased emphasis on the importance of abuse prevention for vulnerable adults receiving publicly-funded care or support services. A guide to understanding the Act and other materials are at [www.seniors.alberta.ca/PPC](http://www.seniors.alberta.ca/PPC). The Act and Regulations can be obtained from the Queen's Printer website at [www.qp.alberta.ca](http://www.qp.alberta.ca).

## Blueprint for Patient Safety Education in Alberta

The Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA) is sponsoring a project to develop a framework for patient safety education in Alberta. A foundational piece of work has already been completed – identifying and describing six patient safety principles that define the basic requirements for safe health care. Incorporating these principles into everyday work in health care will go a long way toward ensuring safe and high quality care for those who use the health system.

The HQCA, through the Blueprint Project, is co-sponsoring a new certificate course on patient safety at the University of Calgary. The course runs September 2010 to March 2011. [Click here](#) for more information on the Blueprint Project.

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