

VIOLENCE IN THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY WORKPLACE

FREE, ONLINE, CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MODULE

Workplace violence is “an incident of aggression that is physical, sexual, verbal, emotional or psychological that occurs when [healthcare workers] are abused, threatened or assaulted in circumstances related to their work”¹

Violence in the workplace is a reality for many OTs and other healthcare workers

It affects individual workers’ physical and emotional health and safety

Violence presents a risk to patients, co-workers and the organization's services as a whole.

Studies show that:

- Over 10% of occupational therapists in the UK had been assaulted.
- 30% of Canadian OTs received threats of violence, nearly half of these occurred in community settings.
- The risk of workplace violence accelerates in community settings because of both clinical and contextual factors and safety for these therapists is a growing concern.
- Occupational therapists overall are more likely to experience verbal violence and bullying as opposed to physical violence.

This **FREE ONLINE** learning module (<http://cbotlabs.wixsite.com/ot-work-violence>) was produced by OTs, for OTs, with funding from Alberta Labour, Government of Alberta (funding does not imply endorsement).

The module provides:

- Awareness about the significant issue of violence in the OT workplace
- Education to OT students and practicing therapists about risk assessment, reduction and prevention, and stakeholder responsibilities
- Tools, resources, and
- A self-evaluation leading to a certificate of learning for your portfolio.

The module is online, FREE and anonymous.

Learn more about violence in the OT workplace at

<https://youtu.be/BqMwN3Lbo-w> OR go directly to the module at

<http://cbotlabs.wixsite.com/ot-work-violence>



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1. International Labour Office, International Council of Nurses, World Health Organization, & Public Services International. Joint Program on Workplace Violence in the Health Sector (2002). Framework guidelines for addressing workplace violence in the health sector. Geneva, Switzerland