

To: Members of Saskatchewan Society of Occupational Therapists

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This notice is to inform SSOT members that use of ultrasound (diagnostic and therapeutic purposes) as well as laser therapy, is not supported by current Saskatchewan legislation unless approved by an officer of Radiation Health.

All SSOT members received a notice in December 2005 detailing their responsibility to comply with the Radiation Health and Safety Regulations, 2005. In this notice we listed the qualifications for use of diagnostic ultrasound as well as laser therapy, both of which do not include licensed occupational therapists. Since that time we have determined that therapeutic ultrasound is also included in this legislation and therefore Occupational Therapists do not have the qualifications to use it in Saskatchewan.

Following is the relevant section of the Act, which is available at <http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/index.cfm?fuseaction=publications.details&p=9623> (or look up "Radiation Health and Safety Regulations 2005"):

Qualifications of operators – therapeutic

33 An owner of medical ultrasound equipment used for therapy must ensure that each operator of the equipment is:

- (a) a physical therapist who is registered pursuant to *The Physical Therapists Act, 1998*;
- (b) a duly qualified medical practitioner;
- (c) a chiropractor who is registered pursuant to *The Chiropractic Act, 1994*; 20
- (d) a certified athletic therapist who is registered with the Saskatchewan Athletic Therapists Association;
- (e) a student who is under the direct supervision of a person who possesses the qualifications set out in clause (a), (b), (c) or (d);
- (f) a formally trained physiotherapist assistant who works under the supervision of a person described in clause (a); or
- (g) a person who has been formally trained:
 - (i) to carry out the procedures for which the equipment is to be used; and
 - (ii) can demonstrate to the satisfaction of an officer his or her knowledge of the equipment, the biological effects associated with its use and the necessary safety procedures.

According to the Essential Competencies of Practice for Occupational Therapists in Canada (2003), Unit 2.3, "*Demonstrates knowledge of and adherence to legislative and regulatory requirements relevant to the province and area of practice*", continued use of such modalities is considered to be outside the boundaries of competent behaviour.

Concerns can be directed to SSOT, as well as Wayne Tiefenbach, Manager of the Radiation Safety Unit. We welcome your input!

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