



Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

ACE Accessing Centre for Expertise

Abstract: Proposal for an Evaluation of Policy-Relevant Evidence and Policy Responses to Delays in Professional Registration of Chiropractors due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Abstract

The Accessing Centre for Expertise (ACE) is pleased to work with the College of Chiropractors of Ontario (CCO) to conduct an evaluation of policy-relevant evidence and policy responses to delays in the professional registration of chiropractors due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently, CCO is in the process of drafting a policy that would consider applications for registration with the college during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the Canadian Chiropractic Examination Board typically holds each of three national examination components (A, B, and C) required for registration three times per year, including in the winter (typically February), spring (typically May) and fall (typically October), the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the cancellation of the spring exam dates. This has resulted in a cohort of recent graduates who rather than completing the exams in May 2020, will now need to wait a minimum of 4-5 months until the October exam (or potentially longer if that exam is also cancelled). Based on this background, CCO is seeking evidence to inform the development of its policy on considering applications for registration in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, CCO seeks to assess the impact of delays in registration on affected chiropractors and their patients.

To address these needs, ACE will conduct a rapid review and targeted scan.

Component 1 – Rapid Review

ACE will use rapid review methodology (<https://www.who.int/alliance-hpsr/resources/publications/rapid-review-guide/en>) to search for scientific and grey literature to address the following review question: What evidence exists to inform CCO's draft registration policy for chiropractors in terms of delays in completing licensure requirements on patient health outcomes and public safety? In order to identify relevant research and contextual evidence within a short time period, ACE will search a traditional academic journal article database (MEDLINE), web search engines (Google Scholar, Google, Google News), and hand-search a set of chiropractic-specific academic journals.

Component 2 – Targeted Scan

For rapid reviews of this nature, where research evidence specific to the research question is less likely, additional targeted scanning can often identify relevant contextual documents. Complementing the rapid review, ACE will also conduct a targeted scan of chiropractic regulatory college (or equivalent) websites and peer organizations for policy documents specific to the issue of delayed registration. In consultation with CCO, ACE identified a list of ~50 peer organizations, including other chiropractic regulatory colleges across Canada, the US, the UK, and Australia, as well as other health professional colleges in Ontario. ACE will also search the websites of targeted law firms, insurers, and chiropractic schools in Canada. ACE will produce a final summary report intended for a policy audience that will synthesize and integrate all evidence sources gathered through Components 1 and 2.

ACE Team

ACE is based in the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto (<https://ace.ihpme.utoronto.ca>).