

Starting in CE cycle 4 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2018), CCO Enacts Mandatory Requirement for Members to Maintain Certification in First Aid & CPR Training - What Does This Mean to You?

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Chiropractors are primary care health care professionals. This means a patient may attend a chiropractor's office by his/her own initiative or they may attend with or without a referral from another health care provider. While chiropractic has a clearly defined scope of practice and chiropractors are permitted to perform a limited number of the controlled acts as set out by legislation, it is entirely possible that a chiropractor will be confronted with a patient in an emergency situation. Many patients have a history of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and other serious medical conditions, and some serious and potentially fatal events can occur to a patient spontaneously - even while in your office.

Therefore, starting in the next CE Cycle (July 1, 2016- June 30, 2018), all members who hold a General class of registration will be required to maintain certification in emergency First Aid/CPR training. **This requirement must be completed by June 30, 2018 and certification must remain current thereafter.**

The purpose of this communiqué is to provide a thorough explanation of the reasons behind this decision and to provide members with information that will enable them to comply with these new requirements.

What does it mean if CCO states something is mandatory?

When the CCO informs members something is mandatory, it means members must comply with that initiative. Not doing so is a failure to comply with a standard of practice

and an act of professional misconduct, which may result in a referral to the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee.

There are many levels of first aid/CPP training available. Which one do I need to complete in order to successfully fulfill this CE requirement?

You are required to only to successfully complete the **emergency level of first aid/CPR**¹. That said, you may obtain a more advanced level of first aid/CPR if you wish to do so and some workplaces may require more advanced training in accordance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1990* and the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997*.

Are chiropractors permitted to perform First Aid/CPR?

Any individual may become trained in emergency first aid/CPR. In fact, the *Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1990* and the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997* have certain workplace safety requirements which includes training in emergency first aid/CPR for a number of employees.

I learned how to perform First Aid/CPR at Chiropractic College. Why do I need to relearn it?

Certain accredited chiropractic colleges or university programs requires a student to successfully complete a course in emergency care or its equivalent; however; until now, there has been no specific requirement in Ontario for a chiropractor to maintain these skills after graduation. Therefore, the Quality Assurance (QA) Committee and CCO have determined that it is in the **public interest** to ensure all members maintain certification in emergency first aid/CPR.

I maintain a General class of registration but I do not treat any patients. Am I still required to maintain certification in First Aid/CPR training?

Yes. Holding a General class of registration is a privilege and not a right, and with that privilege comes certain professional obligations, including compliance with CCO standards of practice and QA initiatives.

Does CCO certify first aid/CPR?

No. The certificate of successful completion of an emergency first aid/CPR program is issued by the organization that offered the program you completed. This certification should be maintained in your professional portfolio.

¹ CPR Level C+CPR+AED, which can be achieved through a 6.5 hour classroom instruction.

How often do I have to re-certify?

Recertification may vary depending on the provider or program. For example, St. John Ambulance and the Red Cross require a person to attend a refresher course every three years to maintain emergency first Aid/CPR certification.

So I don't have to obtain certification in First Aid/CPR each two-year CE Cycle?

No. Recertification is independent of CCO's two-year CE cycle and is determined by the organization issuing the First Aid/CPR certificate. However, once initial certification is achieved, you simply must remain current. However, participation in first aid/CPR may be used towards structured CE hours.

If a number of chiropractors meet and one of them is certified in First Aid/CPR can they teach these skills to everyone else and issue a certificate of completion to everyone, thus fulfilling this requirement?

No. Only duly authorized members of recognized organizations may issue certifications in emergency first aid/CPR. However, if a chiropractor is an approved provider for teaching emergency first aid/CPR, he/she may teach the course.

Can only an accredited chiropractic college or university offer a First Aid/CPR program that is acceptable to CCO?

No. There are many organizations that offer certification in emergency first Aid/CPR (Please see www.wsib.on.ca for a list of approved providers). Of course, it is possible that such a program may be hosted at an accredited chiropractic college or university; under those circumstances, it is the program and not the venue that enables the program to be acceptable.

Does the certification have to be obtained in Ontario?

No. You may obtain certification anywhere as long as the program itself (not the venue) is permitted to issue emergency First Aid/CPR in Ontario.

Can I apply the hours spend learning First Aid/CPR toward my required 20 structured hours of CE?

Yes. Every hour devoted to learning First Aid/CPR may be credited towards the 20 structured hours required each two-year CE cycle. However, if the program exceeds the 20 structured hours requirement, the excess number of hours cannot be banked and applied to a subsequent CE cycle.

Do I have to display my First Aid/CPR certificate prominently in my office?

No. It may be kept in your professional portfolio and shown to your peer assessor upon request during your Peer and Practice Assessment; however, since your patients may find it comforting to know that you are certified and up-to-date on first aid/CPR training you may choose to display the certificate in your office.

Do I have to mail in a copy of the First Aid/CPR certificate to CCO? If not, how will CCO know I have successfully completed my recertification?

No. You do not need to mail in a copy of your first aid/CPR certificate to CCO. You will, however, be asked on your annual renewal form to confirm that your first aid/CPR certificate is up-to-date. Be advised that falsifying information on your registration form is an act of professional misconduct and may result in referral to the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee.