

Ontario Society of Chiropodists



August 15, 2008

Annie Schiefer, Project Manager
Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council
55 St. Clair Avenue West
Suite 806, Box 18
Toronto, ON M4V 2Y7

Dear Ms. Schiefer:

I am pleased to respond to the Joint Submission on Physiotherapy related to Interprofessional Collaboration on behalf of the Ontario Society of Chiropodists (OSC). The OSC materially supports the submission in its recognition of ongoing developments in the educational process for all professions, and the need for increased access to service and reduced waiting times.

We would like to express our reservations about the second controlled act being requested:

2. Treating a wound including by cleansing, soaking, irrigating, probing, debriding, packing or dressing the wound.

Most specifically, the act of debridement has an inherent risk of tissue damage, delayed healing and transmission of infectious disease. It is crucial to successful wound healing and the need for timely treatment cannot be disputed. However, in the patients' interest, wound debridement should be undertaken by trained, skilled and practiced hands. To ensure quality debridement, it is important that the practitioner wielding a scalpel for this purpose not only have been adequately trained, but routinely utilize these skills to maintain an adequate competency.

It is the OSC position that there are several practitioners who have this act in their existing scope of practice, but may be underutilized. Perhaps enhanced Interprofessional Collaboration also allows for the identification of opportunities to more fully employ the scopes of practice as they currently exist.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this submission.

Respectfully,

Andrew Springer, B.Sc., D.Ch., FRSH
President