Appendix C

Correspondence to Provincial Ministries of Health

Health Professions
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Council

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Conseil consultatif sur
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Ontario

To all ProRegNet Members

November 6, 1998

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council (HPRAC) was established in 1993 as an advisory body to the Ontario Minister of Health on matters referred to it regarding the regulation of health professions in Ontario. The Minister of Health has recently requested that HPRAC undertake a review and provide advice on whether or not optometrists should be given the privilege of using therapeutic pharmaceutical agents (TPAs) in their scope of practice.

Currently, in Ontario, optometrists' scope of practice includes the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of: a) disorders of refraction; b) sensory and oculomotor disorders and dysfunctions of the eye and vision system; and c) prescribed diseases. Prescribed diseases include: a) diseases of the eye and vision system that can be determined by the findings from an oculo-visual assessment and b) diseases of the eye and vision system that can be treated by other than the prescribing of drugs or the application of surgery.

I am writing to each of you to obtain any current information you can provide with respect to the issue of optometrists and the use of TPAs within your jurisdiction. Specifically, we would appreciate information with respect to:

- Optometrists' scope of practice within your jurisdiction
- Process undertaken by optometrists to achieve the use of TPAs
- Regulatory limitations on practice
- Education and training requirements with respect to TPAs (especially the clinical component)
- Impact of optometrists' use of TPAs on other health professions (especially family physicians and ophthalmologists)
- Impact on health care costs (especially the impact on provincial drug and health insurance plans)
- Impact on consumers (i.e. access to eye care services)
- Any studies on implementation and/or evaluations undertaken in your jurisdictions with respect to optometrists and TPAs
- The range of drugs (or a copy of a formulary) to be used by optometrists
- Any other issues of relevance to optometrists and the use of TPAs

Please forward this information (by December 4th, if possible) to:

Deanne Montesano
Policy Analyst
Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council
2195 Yonge Street, 4th Floor
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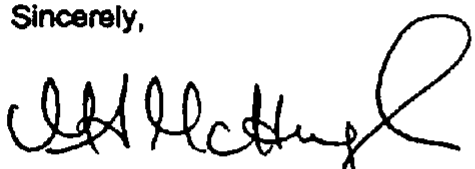
e-mail: montesd@gov.on.ca

If you would like to discuss this request, please contact Ms. Montesano at (416) 326-1554 or myself at (416) 326-1553.

We appreciate your timely attention to this request.

Sincerely,



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