



College of  
Massage  
Therapists of  
Ontario

## College of Massage Therapists of Ontario

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**DRAFT UPDATE – January 25, 2019**

### **Policy: Inappropriate Touch of a Client by a Candidate during the Objectively Structured Clinical Evaluation (OSCE)**

The College of Massage Therapists of Ontario (CMTO) believes it is imperative that the Objectively Structured Clinical Evaluation (OSCE) examination environment is respectful and safe for all participants. Providing a standard experience for all Candidates is extremely important and helps ensure the validity and reliability of this high stakes examination. However, standardization must never take precedence over an individual's safety and security. If a Candidate inappropriately touches a Standardized Client, the Standardized Client's safety is of paramount concern.

Standardized clients and Examiners share the responsibility of reporting inappropriate touch.

Inappropriate touch includes touch of the Standardized Client's genitals or anus at any time for any reason. It also includes touch of the breast or buttocks other than touch that is clinical in nature appropriate to the OSCE.

CMTO has a detailed protocol, including scripted responses, to support Standardized Clients and Examiners with this responsibility. The protocol takes into consideration the possibility that the Standardized Client may not be able to articulate what has happened, and ensures that the Standardized Client is being supported in the immediate aftermath of a reported incident.

If a Standardized Client or Examiner believes they have observed a Candidate touching a Standardized Client inappropriately, the Candidate's examination may be stopped.

Alternatively, anyone witnessing or experiencing inappropriate touch may bring it to the attention of the College immediately after the examination using an Occurrence Report.

A review of the incident will be undertaken and everyone present when, or immediately after, the incident took place, including the Candidate, will be asked to provide a written record of their observations. The Standardized Client will be given information about how to access funding from CMTO for therapy and counselling.

Once the written documentation is received, it will be reviewed by the Office of the Registrar. The Office of the Registrar may seek additional information. A copy of the documentation collected will be provided to the Applicant who will be entitled to make submissions about it to the Office of the Registrar. After considering all relevant documentation, the Office of the Registrar may:

- Determine that no inappropriate touch occurred. In this case, the Office of the Registrar will do one of the following:
  - If the incident resulted in the Candidate's OSCE being stopped before completion, the OSCE will not be counted as one of their three permitted attempts, their result on that examination will be disregarded and the fee for their next attempt to complete the OSCE will be waived.
  - If the Candidate's examination was not stopped before completion (i.e., the incident was reported in Occurrence Reports submitted after the examination), the OSCE will count as one of the Candidate's three permitted attempts.
  
- Determine that inappropriate touch occurred. In this case, the Office of the Registrar may do one or more of the following as it deems appropriate:
  - If the incident resulted in the Candidate's OSCE being stopped before completion
    - The OSCE will not be counted as one of the Candidate's three permitted attempts and their result on that examination will be disregarded; the fee for their next attempt to complete the OSCE will not be waived, or
    - The OSCE will be counted as one of the Candidate's three permitted attempts, or
    - The OSCE will be counted as one of the Candidate's three permitted attempts and the Candidate is also deemed to have failed the examination.
  - If the Candidate's examination was not stopped before completion (i.e., the incident was reported in Occurrence Reports submitted after the examination)
    - The OSCE will be counted as one of the Candidate's three permitted attempts, or
    - The OSCE will be counted as one of the Candidate's three permitted attempts and the Candidate is deemed to have failed the examination
  - Require the Candidate to successfully complete remedial education approved by the Registrar prior to being eligible to attempt another Certification Examination, either OSCE or MCQ
  - Refer the Candidate's Application for Initial Registration, if/when it is submitted, to the Registration Committee for their consideration pursuant to paragraph 15(2) of the *Health Professions Procedural Code (the "Code")*, being Schedule 2

under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*. A panel of the Registration Committee will render a decision pursuant to section 18 of the Code.