Practice Standard- Dual Health Care

Approved: June 2012 **Revised: N/A**

Definition

Dual health care practices occur when a member of the College of Kinesiologists of Ontario (the College) practises as a kinesiologist and practises in another health care discipline (e.g. massage therapist, chiropractor or acupuncturist). The other health discipline may be regulated or unregulated.

Intent

Members of the College can have dual health care practices. While this can benefit patients/clients, it complicates the role and informed consent duties of members. It also affects the understanding of regulation and accountability for health professionals, patients/clients and insurers. The College has established the following standard to clarify the obligations of members who practise in more than one health care discipline.

Objective

Members who have dual health care practices are responsible for administering their practices as separate and distinct entities and for ensuring that their patients/clients understand which role they are adopting when they provide health care services.

Description of Standard

If there is overlap in the scope of practice within the dual health care practices, there is potential to further increase patient/client misunderstanding of the role of the member. Members are accountable to the College when practising and billing for kinesiology services. If the member's other practice is regulated, the member is also accountable to that regulatory college. If the member's other practice is unregulated, the member is only accountable to the College of Kinesiologists for kinesiology services. However, the member is always accountable for their professional conduct or where their practice is so egregious that it may warrant action by the College. For example, where a member's behaviour toward a client is abusive, the College may still investigate a complaint or a report and, at the very least, ensure the member abided by this standard.

A member demonstrates the Standard by:

1. Keeping the roles of the dual health care practice separate and distinct in the mind of the patient/client by having different:

- appointment books;
- patient/client records or entries in patient/client records when they are created as part of an interdisciplinary care team;
- billing records and financial records; and
- obtaining written and signed informed consent when exercising a role different from that which the patient/client initially sought

2. Ensuring that treatments recommended by the member as a Kinesiologist, and provided by the member as a member of a different health discipline, are based solely on patients'/clients' needs.

3. Ensuring that patients/clients are provided with the information needed to understand the member's role and accountability when he or she is performing the treatment. For example, in many circumstances, it would be appropriate for the member to explain the following when providing a non-kinesiology service:

- That the service is not within the scope of practice of kinesiology and that the member is not acting as a kinesiologist when providing the service;
- That the service is unregulated (if applicable) and is not covered by kinesiology liability insurance (if that is the case); and
- That the service cannot be billed to an insurer as kinesiology services.

The member would then obtain voluntary and informed consent for the service provided.

4. Ensuring that patients/clients are provided with the services that they initially sought unless it is determined to be inappropriate.

5. Ensuring that patients'/clients' records clearly demonstrate which services have been provided to patients/clients at each encounter.

6. Claiming only the time worked practising within the scope of practice of kinesiology as practice hours for continued registration with the College.

7. Ensuring that any care provided by the member in another discipline is not done in an effort to avoid practising according to the standards of this College.

Legislation

Professional Misconduct Regulation

Notation

In the event of any inconsistency between this standard and any legislation that governs the practice of members, the legislation governs.