College of
HEALTH AND CARE
PROFESSIONALS OF BC

PRACTICE ACROSS JURISDICTIONS FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

This document supplements the Memorandum of Understanding on Cross-Jurisdictional Remote Practice in Occupational Therapy in Canada that CHCPBC has signed.

Virtual Care

Before delivering services through virtual health care across jurisdictions, occupational therapists must ensure that decisions regarding service provisions are in the client's best interest. For CHCPBC's purposes, virtual care is defined as any interaction between clients and registrants that occurs remotely, using any communication or information technologies, to facilitate access to occupational therapy services.

It is the occupational therapist's responsibility to consider whether the quality of service offered in a virtual format will meet the client's needs or whether in-person services would be the most suitable option for service delivery. The occupational therapist's responsibility is to inform clients about the risks, benefits, and limitations of virtual occupational therapy services.

It is expected that occupational therapists providing virtual services to clients residing in British Columbia adhere to the following:

- Disclose the province where they are registered / licensed to the client.
- Notify the client of the location from which they are providing the service.
- Ensure their liability insurance provides coverage for virtual activities.
- Ensure they have adequate information about resources where the client is located.
- Have a contingency plan should virtual services no longer be appropriate.

Occupational Therapists Registered in Other Provinces

Occupational therapists registered with any of the provinces or territories listed below may provide remote services to clients located in BC without registering with CHCPBC.

Ontario, Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon

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When registration in the secondary jurisdiction is not required

If an occupational therapist is providing education remotely (e.g., an online workshop, webinar, or course) to an audience in another jurisdiction, registration in that jurisdiction is **not required**.

Presenting occupational therapists must introduce themselves as being currently registered or licensed to practice in their primary jurisdiction.

Providing services when an Occupational Therapist is outside of British Columbia

If a College registrant is outside the province and wishes to continue to provide virtual services to their clients who reside in BC, they need to ensure that their insurance coverage continues to be applicable. Registrants must notify the client that they are located outside the province during service delivery.

Rules for in-person services

The rules for in-person service delivery remain unchanged.
To provide in-person occupational therapy services to clients located in BC, occupational therapists must obtain either temporary or full (practising) registration with CHCPBC.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I provide virtual services to a client who is temporarily located in BC?

I am registered with the College of Occupational Therapists of Manitoba. My client will be visiting BC for two months.

Answer:
Yes, you may continue to provide virtual services to them while they are in BC.

Can I continue to provide virtual services to my client who is temporarily relocating to Nova Scotia?

I am a registered occupational therapist in BC, and my client will be on a six-month work assignment in Nova Scotia. They prefer not to switch therapists.

Answer:
Yes, you may continue working with your client. However, you must contact the College of Occupational Therapists of Nova Scotia to confirm any requirements for

providing services while the client is located there. Ensure that your liability insurance covers you for providing services outside BC.

I am registered with CHCPBC and would like to touch base with some clients virtually while I'm out of the country. Would it be okay for me to continue to see some clients virtually?

Answer:

Yes, you may continue to see appropriate clients for virtual services. You would need to ensure that your insurance coverage continues to be applicable. Registrants must notify the client that the therapist is outside the province during service delivery.

Do I need to register with CHCPBC if I am presenting a virtual course for BC-based occupational therapists?

Answer:
No, you do not need to register with CHCPBC to present a virtual course. However, you must introduce yourself as a therapist registered or licensed to practice in your primary jurisdiction.

Do I need to register with CHCPBC if I am presenting or attending an in-person course in BC?

Answer:
No, you do not need to register with CHCPBC if you are presenting at or attending an in-person course, workshop, or conference in BC, as long as you are not delivering occupational therapy services (i.e., providing clinical assessment, treatment, or intervention to clients). However, if presenting, the therapist(s) must introduce themselves as an occupational therapist registered or licensed to practice in their respective jurisdiction.

What happens if my virtual connection fails during a session?

Answer:
You are expected to have a contingency plan, such as rescheduling the session or providing an alternative method of communication.