



## Assessing Occupational Therapists' Continuing Competence Project

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### Project Information

COTO is in the process of developing and implementing a new, evidence-informed process and tools to assess the continuing competence of occupational therapists (OTs) across practice contexts and trigger when additional assessment is required.

*Assessing continuing competence is a cornerstone of the College's legislated mandate to ensure Ontarians receive safe, effective, and ethical care from OTs.*

The need for a new process was determined when the College initiated a research study evaluating the effectiveness of the previous competency assessment process (which used client and colleague surveys) and found that the trigger for additional assessment of competence was not always effective.

The project aims to put in place a new process and tools that:

- More **accurately** identifies OTs requiring further assessment of competence;
- **Efficiently** uses College and registrant resources;
- **Increases engagement** of OTs; and
- Demonstrates the College's dedication to **continued improvement** of processes and programs.

The first phase of the project is focused on developing and piloting the new process and tools, including the process of selecting OTs that annually participate. Future phases of the project will focus on the use of technology and aligning the new process and tools with other components of the College's programs.

To initiate work on the first phase, the College has procured services from a research and consultancy firm with expertise in this area. It is expected that this phase will be completed in spring 2020, with future phases to be completed by 2021.

Development of the new process and tools will require input from OTs, patients, employers, and other groups and the College will be reaching out to seek this input as needed.