



NOTICE TO THE PROFESSIONS

Sharing Space & Services with Other Health Professionals

There are many instances where regulated health care professionals may choose to share office and clinic space as well as staff (such as office personnel). There are many advantages to these arrangements for health care providers and clients, including but not limited to, reducing costs and creating a ‘one stop shopping’ experience. Some examples of shared clinics involve chiropractors, massage therapists, and physiotherapists; physicians and hearing health care professionals; opticians and hearing health care professionals; speech-language pathologists and dietitians. There is no general prohibition on these types of arrangements, if they are set up and operated within the regulatory requirements of all involved professionals.

At times, these arrangements may place registrants in a conflict of interest and/or a difficult ethical situation that is not readily transparent to the public – for example, where there is a financial incentive or payment of any kind for direct referrals to one of the co-located service providers. The CSHBC [Registrant Code of Ethics](#) states that CSHBC registrants must not,

“Secure or accept referrals by providing, directly or indirectly, any incentives (financial or otherwise), to colleagues, other professionals or referring sources”.

There can be serious implications for regulated health care professionals, up to and including disciplinary action, if there is a situation where there is a:

- Real or perceived conflict of interest that remains unresolved;
- Violation of the professional’s values such as integrity (honesty);
- Violation of a regulatory colleges’ code of ethics or conflict of interest guidelines;
- Violation of standards of practice or policies governing any of the participating providers;
- Negative impact on a client’s care or the management of their disorder because of a business relationship.

If you are a registrant of CSHPBC and find yourself in a situation as described above, please contact the College at qualityassurance@cshpbc.org to arrange a practice consultation that can be tailored to your specific situation.

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