

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

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**Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée**

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Dr. Carol Leet
President
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario
80 College Street
Toronto ON M5G 2E2

Mr. Robert Gauthier
President
College of Psychologists of Ontario
110 Eglinton Ave West, Suite 500
Toronto ON M4R 1A3

Ms. Carol Cowan-Levine
President
College of Psychotherapists and Registered Mental
Health Therapists of Ontario
163 Queen Street East, 4th Floor
Toronto ON M5A 1S1

Ms. Angela Verrier
President
College of Nurses of Ontario
101 Davenport Road
Toronto ON M5R 3P1

Dear Dr. Leet, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Cowan-Levine and Ms. Verrier:

I am writing to follow up on recent statements I have made about 'conversion' or 'reparative' therapy and the role of regulatory colleges in ensuring that their members are practising ethically and in accordance with the standards of practice of their professions. The premise that sexuality or gender identity is a pathology that may be cured through medical or psychological intervention is outdated and potentially damaging to patients. No credible or reputable health organization supports 'conversion therapy'; most have taken the step of condemning it in position statements, policies or practice guidelines. Furthermore, this therapy reinforces societal intolerance and stigmatization of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer and Transgender community.

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As Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, I feel it is my responsibility to ensure that patients receive evidence-based care and that they are treated ethically, equitably and fairly. In my view, the use of conversion therapy on a patient results in neither outcome and should not be tolerated in Ontario.

Services that seek to change or direct the sexual orientation or gender identity of patients are not medically necessary and are not payable by OHIP. I am asking you to encourage any individual who may have received these services from a health care professional to file a complaint with the respective college and contact the Ministry's Fraud Line to report a suspected case of inappropriate OHIP billing by calling 1-888-781-5556 or sending an e-mail to ReportOHIPFraud.MOH@ontario.ca.

At its core, this matter is about the standards of practice that each member of your respective colleges must maintain when delivering services to patients. I would like to work with your Colleges to identify how best to ensure that conversion therapy is not a practice that is engaged in by the members of your professions. This may require creating new policy directives or amending existing regulations.

This work is to ensure that Ontario's regulated health professionals do not approach a patient's sexual orientation and gender identity as a condition in search of a cure, and that members are providing services to patients in accordance with professional standards and ethics.

Ministry staff will be reaching out shortly to confirm whether the colleges have the appropriate tools to achieve this outcome.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister

- c: Dr. Rocco Gerace, Registrar, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario
Dr. Catherine Yarrow, Registrar, College of Psychotherapists of Ontario
Ms. Joyce Rowlands, Registrar, College of Psychotherapists and Registered Mental Health Therapists of Ontario
Ms. Anne Coghlan, Executive Director, College of Nurses of Ontario