



**ONTARIO CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION CHIROPRACTIQUE DE L'ONTARIO**

February 22, 2008

Ms Virginia Smart
Producer
CBC Marketplace
P.O. Box 500, Station A
Toronto, ON M5W 1E6

Dear Ms Smart::

The recent CBC *Marketplace* segment on orthotics highlighted some issues and challenges relating to orthotics prescription and dispensing in Ontario.

Foot specialists, such as pedorthists, chiropodists and podiatrists provide valuable expertise and perspective in the prescription and dispensing of orthotics.

Likewise, chiropractors and physiotherapists, with their focus on the neuromusculoskeletal system as a whole, fill a clinical need that differs from that of health care providers who primarily address foot symptoms.

The Registered Health Professions Act was designed to ensure that patients have a choice.

Because not all professions have a specific Orthotics Standard of Practice as the College of Chiropractors of Ontario does, for several years the OCA has been in discussions with private health insurers and their industry associations — The Canadian Life & Health Insurance Association (CLHIA) and The Canadian Health Care Anti-Fraud Association (CHCAA) — to come together and agree on a set of pan-professional protocols for orthotics prescription and dispensing. This is to assist the insurance industry in managing the issues, and would include the private labs who are involved in the manufacture of these appliances (see attached correspondence, dated March 2005, on this issue).

The OCA renews its call to the extended health care insurance industry to facilitate a pan-professional forum on orthotics, and urges involved health care professions to collaborate in a process to develop objective and meaningful standards for orthotics.

The fact is that orthotics fall within the competency and scope of practice of all of our respective professions. It is therefore incumbent upon us to work together to best serve the interests of our patients and the public at large.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Haig,
Executive Director,
The Ontario Chiropractic Association

cc: Ontario Podiatric Medical Association
Podiatric Association of Canada
Ontario Society of Chiropodists
Ontario Physiotherapy Association
Canadian Life & Health Insurance Association
Canadian Health Care Anti-Fraud Association
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