



## DID YOU KNOW..?

### PAYING FOR REFERRALS IS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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Under the [Professional Misconduct Regulation, 1993](#) section 1 (11), it is an act of professional misconduct to practice “the profession while the member is in a conflict of interest.”

The [Proposed Conflict of Interest Regulation, 1996](#) outlines what constitutes a conflict of interest and includes the following in section 10:

“...it is a conflict of interest for a member, where the member or a related person to the member or a related corporation to the member accepts or receives any benefit, directly or indirectly from, or confers any benefit, directly or indirectly on, any person for the purpose of making or accepting a referral of a patient or client.”

Therefore, a member would be in a conflict of interest if he or she paid a fee or provided any other kind of benefit to a referral source (e.g. health care provider, patient, friend) for referring. Similarly, it would be a conflict of interest if the member received payment, or any other kind of benefit for making a referral.

The principle behind this requirement is one of patient choice. That is, when referrals are made based on personal benefit, the patient is then given a restricted choice of health care providers. Patients should receive referrals based on quality care as opposed to monetary or otherwise personal benefit to the referral source.

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If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact us at <mailto:caslpo@caslpo.com> or phone us at 416-975-5347 or 1-800-993-9459.