



AGENDA ITEM 11.4

TOPIC: Quality Assurance

History of Topic

General Information

The College's existing quality assurance program is aimed at ensuring the ongoing quality and safety of veterinary medicine in the province to mitigate risks to the public and instill public confidence in veterinary medicine and regulation of the profession. The existing quality assurance program is voluntary.

Under the *Veterinary Professionals Act, 2024 (VPA)*, both veterinarian and veterinary technician members will be required to participate in a quality assurance program. Frequency of requirements would be determined by the Quality Assurance Committee and will be clearly outlined in College Policy.

Legislative Framework

Sections 32-34 and 93 (1) 34 of the *VPA* allow for the development of regulation language related to a mandatory quality assurance program.

Development of Regulatory Concept by Transition Council

Transition Council reviewed and forwarded for public consultation a regulatory concept related to a mandatory quality assurance program in December 2024. This concept included:

1. Definitions

Transition Council proposed the development of regulation language that contains several definitions designed to assist with clarity around the quality assurance program, its oversight, and its application. This includes:

Assessor: Assessor means a person appointed by the Committee under Section 33 of the Act for the purpose of the quality assurance program.

Program: Program means the quality assurance program authorized by Section 32 of the Act.

Stratified Random Sampling: Stratified Random Sampling means a sampling where groups of members are:

- (a) Removed from the pools of members to be sampled, or
- (b) Weighted to increase or decrease the likelihood of their being selected.

2. Outlining Different Aspects of the Quality Assurance Program

Transition Council proposed the development of regulation language designed to provide additional details related to the quality assurance program in the following areas:

Assessors

To outline that the Quality Assurance Committee may appoint assessors for the purpose of the program with knowledge and experience in the practice of the profession, quality assurance activities, investigation or assessment techniques, or the public interest.

Continued Professional Development

To outline that every member shall participate in continuing professional development activities, and maintain a portfolio of such activities, in the form and manner specified by the Quality Assurance Committee.

Self-Assessments

To outline that every member shall participate in self-assessment activities, and keep records of such activities, in the form and manner specified by the Quality Assurance Committee.

Peer and Practice Assessments

To outline that a member is required to undergo a peer or practice assessment, or both, if:

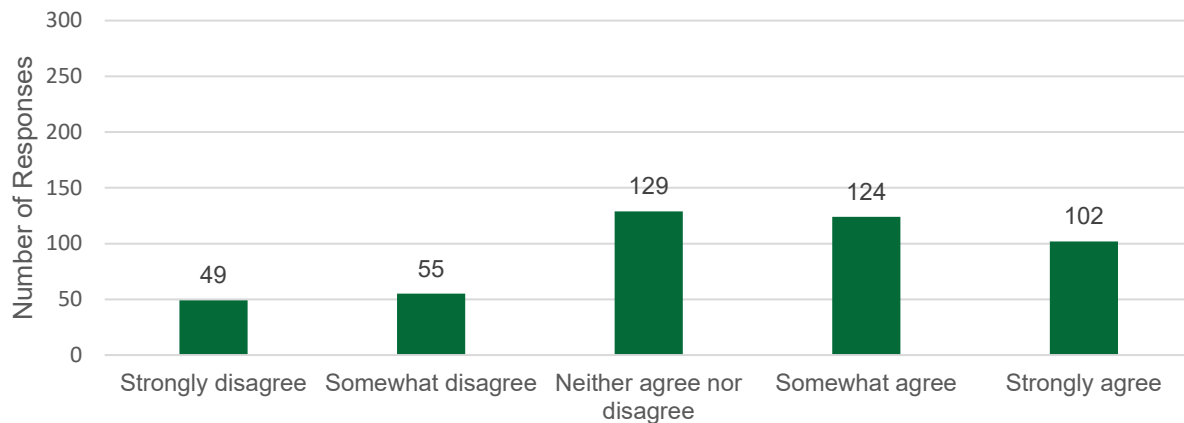
- The member's name is selected at random, including by stratified random sampling;
- The member has been referred by the Quality Assurance Committee; or
- If the member is selected on the basis of criteria specified and published by the Committee at least three months before the member is selected.

General Consultation Feedback

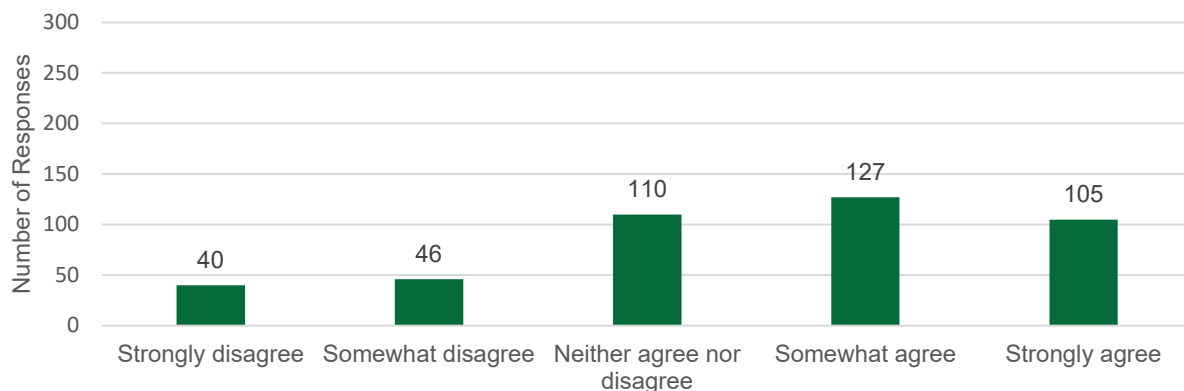
A regulatory concept related to quality assurance was included in the list of regulatory concepts that were circulated for public consultation from February 11 to April 16, 2025.

The following quantitative responses were received related to quality assurance:

Survey respondents were asked to indicate their agreement with two statements about Quality Assurance on a Likert scale of responses from “Strongly disagree” to “Strongly agree”. The figure below presents the results of 459 responses to the statement “*The proposed quality assurance framework is appropriate.*”.



The figure below presents the results of 428 responses to the statement “*The proposed quality assurance framework will promote the continued competence of members.*”.



In addition to the quantitative data, the following qualitative trends were noted:

- Comments related to the vagueness of the program resulting in difficulty to offer support;
- Disagreement with random sampling methods;
- Questions about how time-consuming or burdensome the program will be; and
- General agreement with the concept of accountability for continuing education.

For more information on this consultation feedback, please refer to pages 57-59 of the full consultation report.

Consultation Feedback from Key Partners

Ontario Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA)

In its April 15, 2025, submission the OVMA shared:

- Overall support for the principle of an ongoing quality assurance program;
- Recommendation that the mandatory quality assurance program be low-burden;
- Specified preferred intervals between peer reviews and continuing education credit cycles; and
- Request for program assessors' specific competencies and training be clearly defined to ensure accurate and fair evaluations.

Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians

In its April 16, 2025, submission the OAVT shared:

- Interest in both categories of professionals (veterinary technicians and veterinarians) to participate in evaluating each other to ensure diverse professional experiences and educational backgrounds are considered; and
- Interest in both categories of professionals being involved in the creation of the mandatory quality assurance program.

Other Submissions

- Highlighted importance of fair and equitable access to quality assurance training, opportunities, and peer assessments
 - o Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario
- Interest in more details related to the proposed mandatory quality assurance program
 - o Ontario Association of Bovine Practitioners; Ontario Association of Swine Veterinarians; Ontario Association of Poultry Veterinarians
- Request for requirements of the program to be closely aligned and equitable for both veterinary technician and veterinarian members
 - o ProVet Alliance

For more information related to these submissions, please refer to the beginning of page 131 of the full consultation report.

Further Information Gathered Based on Consultation Feedback

1. Comments Related to Amount of Detail in Regulation

Several comments received through the consultation feedback, as well as direct submissions from key partners, indicated an interest in receiving more details related to the mandatory quality assurance program being proposed. Some comments propose that more information related to the program should be contained in regulation, as opposed to being developed by the Quality Assurance Committee with details being expanded on in College Policy.

The regulatory concept, as developed by Transition Council, was informed by the statutes and regulations governing other professions across Ontario, where it is common to see structural information contained in the Act and/or Regulation, with full details of the quality assurance program being a product of the Committee and its policies. For example, Ontario [Regulation 256/24](#) under the *Pharmacy Act* includes regulations related to definitions, self-assessments, practice and peer assessments, and panel requirements. This level of detail is consistent with the proposed regulatory concept.

2. Comments related to Level of Burden or Investment of Time

An additional theme from the consultation feedback pertained to uncertainty about the burden and investment of time that members may expect under a mandatory quality assurance program. The College is sensitive to the workload of veterinary professionals and recognizes the need for a well-balanced mandatory quality assurance program. The proposed regulatory concept suggests that members would not be required to complete all aspects of the program every year. Frequency of requirements would be determined by the Quality Assurance Committee and would intend to be fair, reasonable, risk-based, and informed by other jurisdictions and professions' existing frameworks.

3. Comments related to Future Development of the Quality Assurance Program

Based on the feedback received from the consultation, there is a clear interest in more clarity related to the future development of the mandatory quality assurance program. All aspects of the program not outlined in Regulation will be developed by the Quality Assurance Committee and will be informed by research and public consultation. This process will also be designed to ensure that the program reflects the many different ways in which members practise, including species-specific considerations.

Additional Context to Assist with Decision-Making

Based on the consultation feedback received and the additional information gathered, no additional changes or amendments to the regulatory concept related to VCPR at this time.

Transition Council Discussion

The information contained in this cover sheet is being presented to Transition Council for its review and discussion related to next steps. To aid in this discussion, Transition Council is encouraged to consider if any further clarification or additional information is necessary prior to providing its direction.

Potential Direction

Based on this review and discussion, Transition Council may direct:

1. That the regulatory concept be approved for submission to OMAFA as presented or amended;

2. That the regulatory concept be returned to College staff for further work and consideration; or
3. Any other direction as determined by Transition Council.

Attachments

1. Appendix A – Regulatory Concept (as presented in the public consultation)

Concept Chart – Quality Assurance

Section	Primary Concepts Confirmed by Transition Council	Additional Information	Date of Confirmation
This column outlines the specific section of regulation.	This column provides a description of the objectives sought and the associated reasoning.	This column provides any additional specific information required to ensure clarity.	This column outlines when Transition Council confirmed the concept as well as any additional questions raised.
Quality Assurance	<p>General</p> <p>Transition Council proposes the development of regulation language related to the mandatory quality assurance program in accordance with Sections 32-34 and 93 (1) 34 of the <i>Veterinary Professionals Act, 2024 (VPA)</i>. This regulatory language will apply to both veterinarian and veterinary technician members.</p> <p>Purpose</p> <p>Mandatory quality assurance is an effective regulatory tool to ensure the ongoing quality and safety of professionals in practice and to support them in maintaining competency throughout their careers. A mandatory quality assurance program allows for the College to collaborate with members to assess those areas where development of additional knowledge, skills, and judgement may be appropriate, and assure both the public and the profession that members are practising in a manner consistent with the CVPO's standards of practice. A mandatory quality assurance program also</p>	<p>The specific details of the quality assurance program will be developed by the Quality Assurance Committee established under the CVPO and will be publicly consulted on during the development phase.</p> <p>Members would not be required to complete all aspects of the mandatory quality assurance program every year. Frequency of requirements would be determined by the Quality Assurance Committee and would be</p>	Transition Council confirmed the regulatory concept related to the quality assurance program in December 2024.

Section	Primary Concepts Confirmed by Transition Council	Additional Information	Date of Confirmation
	<p>provides a positive learning experience for members and be a useful tool to allow for the CVPO to identify and provide support and resources to areas where data demonstrates higher risks of harm or potential harm to both animals and the public.</p> <p>Definitions</p> <p>Transition Council proposes that regulation language be developed that contains several definitions designed to assist with clarity. This includes definitions of assessor, program, and stratified random sampling.</p> <p>Outlining Different Aspects of the Program</p> <p>The College is proposing that regulation language be developed that provides additional details related to the mandatory quality assurance program in the following areas:</p> <p><i>Assessors</i></p> <p>Transition Council proposes that regulation language outline that the Quality Assurance Committee may appoint assessors for the purposes of the program with knowledge and experience in the practice of the profession, quality assurance activities, investigation or assessment techniques, and/or the public interest.</p> <p><i>Continued Professional Development</i></p> <p>Transition Council proposes that regulation language require every member to participate in continuing</p>	clearly outlined in CVPO Policy.	

Section	Primary Concepts Confirmed by Transition Council	Additional Information	Date of Confirmation
	<p>professional development activities, and maintain a portfolio of such activities, in the form and manner specified by the Quality Assurance Committee.</p> <p><i>Self-Assessments</i></p> <p>Transition Council proposes that regulation language outline that every member shall participate in self-assessment activities, and keep records of such activities, in the form and manner specified by the Quality Assurance Committee.</p> <p><i>Peer and Practice Assessments</i></p> <p>Transition Council proposes that regulation language require a member to undergo a peer or practice assessment, or both, if</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The member's name is selected at random, including by stratified random sampling; • The member has been referred by the Quality Assurance Committee; or • If the member is selected based on criteria specified and published by the Committee at least three (3) months before the member is selected. <p>These assessments will be performed by an Assessor(s) appointed by the Quality Assurance Committee.</p>		