

Occupational Therapist Assistant & Physiotherapist Assistant Education Accreditation Program

Memo: Integration of New Criterion Compliance Language

Background

In June 2017, the OTA & PTA EAP introduced new terminology to describe a program's demonstrated strength of compliance with each of the evaluative criteria in the Accreditation Standards. This new language was chosen to increase clarity for Programs, Peer Review Teams and members of the Joint Accreditation Committee (JAC). The key change was that the terms for level of compliance (for example Issue, Weakness and Deficiency) were replaced with two categories: Partially Met or Not Met. This new language has been in use for all accreditation reviews since June 2017. During this time, feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

For Programs who completed their accreditation review prior to June 2017, the terminology used in their original accreditation review has continued to be used (ACC-03 Pilot or ACC-03A). This meant there were two sets of compliance language being used around the table at the JAC. To increase consistency of decision-making at the JAC, the new terminology will now be used for all programs, effective November 30, 2019. The details of this change are published in [ACC-03B](#), and described below.

What Does this Mean for My Program?

Following your next Progress Review, your Accreditation Review and Status Report (AR & SR), will reflect the new compliance language. Each criterion will be assessed as either Met, Partially Met, or Not Met (please see table below).

For any criteria that you may not be reporting on until a future Progress Report, the original level of compliance will appear with the corresponding new language in brackets. For example, if a criterion has been marked as "Issue", your report will state "Issue (Partially Met)". When you next report on that criterion, the new language will be used in your AR & SR.

Please rest assured that there will be no change to your accreditation status based on this change. The only level of compliance that impacts overall accreditation status has always been criterion Not Met (Deficiency). Not Met (Deficiency) is now simply called Not Met. There is no change in the definition of this level of compliance.

Comparison of Compliance Language Old vs. New

ACC-03 Pilot and ACC-03A (prior to June 2017)				ACC-03B (June 2017 onwards)			
	Language	Description	Progress Report	Progress Report	Language	Description	
MET	Met	No concerns	No	No	Met	No concerns	MET
	Comment	Feedback to the program			Met with Recommendations	Recommendations for continued improvement	
	Issue	The program is compliant with the criterion; potential exists for non-compliance in future	Yes	Yes	Partially Met	Needs Improvement	PARTIALLY MET
	Weakness	The program is compliant with the criterion; there is insufficient strength of compliance to assure the quality of the program will be maintained	Yes				
NOT MET	Deficiency	The criterion is not met	Yes	Yes	Not Met	Requirement Not Met OR Required Improvements Not Made	NOT MET

Questions?

Please do not hesitate to contact Program Manager Amanda Walton at amanda.walton@otapta.ca with any questions or concerns about this change.