

**THOMPSON'S
WORLD INSURANCE NEWS**
Daily email service
November 12, 2013

Biased MDs should be penalized: Lawyers

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The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario should crack down on members who submit biased medical assessments on behalf of insurers, say lawyers representing plaintiffs.

The college recently drafted transparency principles in preparation for discussions about making its workings more open to the public, and has asked its members and the public to provide feedback.

The Ontario Trial Lawyers Association said it is concerned about the conduct of physicians in auto insurance assessments and in the preparation of their reports.

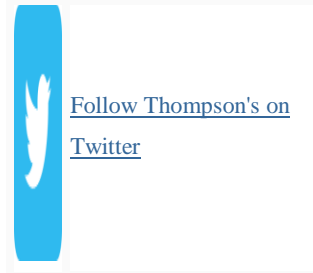
“In addition to incidences of unqualified medical practitioners carrying out insurer medical assessments, there is a widespread perception that reports are often biased and that these assessors operate without fear of professional sanction in an environment that lacks transparency and accountability.”

The OTLA said accident victims with serious injuries often go without adequate or timely treatment due to incomplete or biased medical assessments.

“Further, even where these reports are found to be biased, it can take many years for victims to have their treatment and benefits reinstated.”

And because ‘remedial cautions’ regarding an assessor’s conduct are “buried in reports that never see the light of day,” future accident victims may be at risk of similar mistreatment, the lawyers’ group charged.

“Substantiated complaints brought to the College, should be noted on the permanent record of that physician for the protection of the public and negative findings should be allowed to be used in subsequent cases.”



Is there a solution to the auto dilemma?

THE WORLD of auto insurance in Canada was a relatively calm one when Thompson’s World Insurance News first appeared on the scene in October, 1988.

As Thompson’s officially celebrates 25 years of continuous independent publishing for Canadian p&c professionals, we’re looking to delve into the issue in more depth than ever before. We’re opening up, looking for feedback from anyone with an opinion — a sort of ‘Have Your Say’ feature series approach. We want to hear from you. What are your solutions to the challenges to auto insurance? Contact us at thompsons25th@gmail.com with your plans to rid auto of today’s problems.

