



College of
Occupational
Therapists

Specialist Section

Independent
Practice

General Membership Advice

1. Why should I rejoin COTSS-IP?

It is a therapist's choice, we are a specialist section for independent OT's but no one has to be a member. The advantages are that the COTSS-IP offers links to other independent OT's, there are forums where questions can be posted, there are regular regional meetings which provides a networking opportunity, a Bulletin is published twice a year and there is an opportunity to go to the conference/ learning event at a reduced rate. The committee will also keep therapists up to date with practice issues affecting individual practitioners.

2. Can I be a member of cotss-ip if I am not a member of BAOT?

No, cotss-ip is part of the College of Occupational Therapists and it can only accept members who are a member of the British Association of Occupational Therapists.

3. What are the membership fees?

There are 3 levels of membership, each level starts from 1st October until 30th September. First level – annual membership. Second level – annual membership with directory entry. Third level – annual membership with enhanced directory entry. The enhanced directory provides members with an opportunity to create a web link from the cotss-ip website to their companies website.

4. What is the directory?

This is an opportunity for members of cotss-ip to advertise their services on the cotss-ip website. Members of the public use this service and our dedicated enquiry line to find an Occupational Therapist. The cotss-ip directory is the only list of Occupational Therapists in Independent Practice that is affiliated with the British Association of Occupational Therapists.

5. What if I wish to change my membership during the year?

If you wish to alter your membership to include a directory or an enhanced directory entry then please go to the website (www.cotss-ip.org.uk) and download the application form and include a cheque. Please note the amount decreases during the year as our annual subscription date starts in October.

6. I am a therapist with a business partner who is also a therapist, can I have a joint entry under the directory?

No, the directory is only set up for individual therapists.



7. I am have set up a directory entry but I do not appear to be listed?

Every therapist needs to create their own CV on the directory. This is achieved by writing their own description of their services, ticking the specialism's that they can offer and the geographical area that they work in. Please ensure you have clicked update at the end of completing the above details.

8. What fee should I charge?

Under the competition law (created by the EU) cotss-ip cannot survey its members to know what a standard fee is charged as this may restrict competition between our members to the public. As part of setting yourself up in business it is important to have a clear pricing structure that takes into account your expenses such as telephone, heating and lighting etc. Some businesses charge by the hour others charge per case. The business start up pack provided by cotss-ip at the time of joining explains how to work out a fee structure that meets your individual business requirements.

9. What is the CPD requirement for OT's?

Independent Occupational Therapists are guided by the same CPD requirements as therapists working in statutory services. It is a requirement of all therapists to maintain their professional standards as stated by the Health Professions Council.

10. COTSS-IP has taken out two direct debits for my membership?

COTSS-IP does not take any money by direct debit. Membership can be paid for by either a cheque or a standing order. If two amounts of money were taken from an account it is suggested that the member checks their standing order instructions with their bank or building society.

11. I have forgotten my password to access the member's only section of the cotss-ip website?

Please email Richard Proud on cotss-ip@event-booking.net and ask him to create you a new password. Please include your membership number.

12. I have forgotten my cotss-ip membership number?

Please email Richard Proud on cotss-ip@event-booking.net and ask him to inform you your membership number.

We hope that you have found this advice sheet helpful. If your question has not been answered then please email cotss-ip@event-booking.net

