

SCPT Practice Guideline #4 Evaluation

Background

When a client has been receiving physical therapy services either in an independent process or as part of a multidisciplinary evaluation, outcome information will lead to greater effectiveness, appropriate discharge planning, and service improvement for the public's benefit.

The SCPT Code of Ethical Conduct provides:

A) Responsibilities to the Client

6. Respect the principles of informed consent including by explaining service options, risks, benefits, potential outcomes, possible consequences of refusing treatment or services, and by avoiding coercion.
7. Treat clients only when the diagnosis or continuation of the intervention warrants treatment and is not contraindicated.
8. Respect and support the autonomy of the client to participate in the management and decision-making relating their own health.
9. Provide an alternative treatment option through referral to another health care provider/physiotherapist if the therapeutic relationship is compromised.

B) Responsibilities to the Public

3. Advocate within their capacity and context to address clients' needs and the broad determinants of health and to improve the standards of health care.
6. Assess the quality and impact of their services regularly.

Practice Guideline

Clinical Requirements

1. The physical therapist:
 - (1) Evaluates and updates intervention plans in accordance with the client's clinical profile when there is:
 - a) no clinical improvement;
 - b) a deterioration in functional status; or
 - c) the onset of new symptoms;

- (2) Reviews and modifies intervention plans on an ongoing basis to maximize progress in accordance with the needs and expected outcomes of the client and/or family, the significance of the clinical benefit(s) achieved, and resource constraints;
- (3) Discusses with the client and/or family significant changes to the intervention and reaches agreement on a revised plan;
- (4) Communicates the results of ongoing evaluation with other members of the client's health-care team;
- (5) Discontinues interventions that are no longer necessary or effective;
- (6) Discontinues specific interventions when requested to do so by the client;
- (7) Plans discharge with the client by:
 - a) determining the client's and/or family's level of knowledge about future service requirements;
 - b) recommending options for ongoing service;
 - c) involving health professionals providing continuing care to the client; and
 - d) identifying resource constraints that may influence planning for discharge;
- (8) Discharges or recommends the discharge of the client when physical therapy services are no longer indicated;
- (9) Uses standardized measures, where available and appropriate, to compare discharge status with the baseline values recorded during the initial assessment; and
- (10) Participates in available program evaluation and clinical effectiveness studies to support the development of outcomes research.

Interpersonal Requirements

2. The physical therapist informs the client and/or family about:
 - a) the nature and purpose of ongoing and outcome evaluations;
 - b) results of ongoing assessments; and
 - c) reasons why service is being discontinued