

## **SCPT Practice Resource Assessment and Analysis**

### **Standards of Practice for Physical Therapists and Practice Resources**

Along with the implementation of the Standards of Practice document (as of September 1, 2022), Practice Guidelines are being transitioned to Practice Resources. Practice Resources are educational documents for physical therapists when considering broader topics that may involve multiple standards or regulations.

As part of the transition, Practice Guidelines will be renamed Practice Resources until they can be incorporated into new revamped Practice Resources.

*The Physical Therapists Act* and SCPT Bylaws, which includes the Ethical Code, and the Standards of Practice document are the approved documents for physical therapy practice in Saskatchewan providing the foundation for which practitioners are governed within the regulatory environment.

### **Background**

The physical therapist must conduct an assessment and analysis to determine the nature and extent of a client's dysfunction in order to determine the need for physical therapy service and/or referral to another health care provider.

### **The SCPT Code of Ethical Conduct provides:**

#### **A. Responsibilities to the Client**

1. Demonstrate sensitivity toward individual clients, respecting and taking into consideration their unique rights, needs, beliefs, values, culture, goals, and environmental context.
2. Act in a respectful manner and do not refuse care or treatment to any client on the prohibited grounds of discrimination as specified in the Canadian Human Rights Act<sup>3</sup> as well as on the grounds of social or health status.
5. Communicate openly, honestly and respectfully with clients at all times.
7. Treat clients only when the diagnosis or continuation of the intervention warrants treatment and is not contraindicated.
10. Respect the confidentiality, privacy and security of client information in all forms of communication.
11. Use electronic communication and social media and other forms of digital technology professionally and respectfully, conforming to confidentiality guidelines.

12. Practice in a safe, competent, accountable and responsible manner during the provision of services.

15. Practice the profession of physiotherapy according to their own competence and limitations, referring the client to others as necessary.

16. Practice collaboratively with colleagues, other health professionals and agencies for the benefit of clients.

**B. Responsibilities to the Profession**

5. Act transparently and with integrity in all professional and business practices including fees and billing; advertising of professional services; and real and/or perceived conflicts of interest

**Practice Resource Information**

**Clinical Requirements**

1. Prior to planning and delivering a physical therapy intervention or, in the case of a consultation, prior to reporting, the physical therapist:
  - (1) Documents a relevant health history or, in the case of a multidisciplinary assessment, reviews, and updates as necessary, the health history recorded by another team member;
  - (2) Incorporates supplementary information into the client's record relating to the client's health status, health history and previous health management having made a reasonable effort to obtain the information;
  - (3) Collects relevant data by interviewing the client and performing a clinical examination as determined by the nature of the presenting disease, impairment, and/or disability;
  - (4) Identifies the client's and/or the family's goals for service and expected outcomes;
  - (5) Where available and appropriate, uses standardized measures to:
    - a) assess the impact of the disease, impairment, and/or disability on the client's function;
    - b) establish baseline outcome measures;
    - c) assess the client's perceptions of his or her functional status and quality of life;
  - (6) Analyzes assessment findings and determines client abilities, functional problems and potential for change; and

- (7) Records key observations, measurements and analysis in the client's chart.

#### Safety Requirements

2. The physical therapist:
  - (1) Within the constraints of the practice setting, ensures services are provided in a clean, safe and accessible area;
  - (2) Follows the SCPT practice guidelines relating to infection control procedures;
  - (3) Exercises due caution near hazards in the physical environment;
  - (4) Refers clients to:
    - a) another registered physical therapist for consultation when the assessment is beyond his or her competence;
    - b) another health care provider, when additional investigations are beyond a physical therapist's scope of practice;
  - (5) Ensures tasks assigned to unlicensed personnel are appropriate and supervised in accordance with the SCPT practice guidelines relating to support workers and exercise therapists.

#### Interpersonal Requirements

3. Prior to commencing the assessment, the physical therapist:
  - (1) Ensures the client and/or family are informed about the nature and purpose of the assessment, as well as any personal financial costs associated with the assessment; and
  - (2) Asks the client to report any significant change(s) in his or her physical status during the course of the assessment.
4. After completing the assessment, the physical therapist:
  - a) informs the client and/or family about the results of the assessment;
  - b) explains the nature of the problem and functional prognosis; and
  - c) provides rationale for consultation with another health provider