

## **SCPT Practice Resource**

### **Use of Instruments/Devices**

#### **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**

Within the profession, technology is rapidly changing. The implementation of technology and utilization of new equipment in practice is a professional decision.

The SCPT Regulatory Bylaws prohibit the use of instruments or devices except under specific circumstances as follows:

#### **Use of instruments or devices**

**26** No member shall use any instrument or device in the provision of physical therapy services unless:

- (a) the instrument or device is appropriately maintained and calibrated;
- (b) the member has successfully completed any necessary training to become familiar with the use of the instrument or device and its clinical application; and
- (c) the client is informed of the limitations of the results and the steps to be taken based on the results.

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

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

6. Respect the principles of informed consent including by explaining service options, risks, benefits, potential outcomes, possible consequence of refusing treatment of services, and by

avoiding coercion.

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

13. Take all reasonable steps to prevent harm to clients. Should harm occur disclose it to the client and others as required.

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

### **Practice Resource**

1. It is the responsibility of the physical therapist to complete his or her own investigation regarding the efficacy and use of instruments or devices in accordance with the Regulatory Bylaws.
2. Members must ensure that the device is registered in accordance with any relevant health and safety regulations and/or Acts if they exist.