

SCPT Practice Resource

Spinal Manipulation Background

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

Section 2 of the SCPT Regulatory Bylaws defines “Specialized physical therapy procedure” to include “manipulation”. Subsection 18(1) states: *“No member shall perform a specialized physical therapy procedure unless he or she has completed an educational program described in this section and recognized by the council.”*

Section 18 (6) states: *“To be recognized by the council, a course in spinal manipulation must:*

- (a) be included in a recognized educational program:*
- (b) be provided by a member organization and meet the standards of the International Federation of Orthopedic Manipulative Physical Therapists; or*
- (c) provide education to the same level as a course described in clause (a) or (b).”*

Recognized Educational Programs

- Council recognizes the courses included in a recognized educational program provided by Canadian Universities as providing the education and training necessary to perform spinal manipulation as taught in those programs.
- Council recognizes education programs that meet the standards of the International Federation of Orthopedic Manipulative Physical Therapists (IFOMPT) provided by institutions in Canada and in other countries as providing the education and training necessary to perform spinal manipulative techniques in taught in those courses and programs. (please refer to www.ifompt.com for details).

The SCPT Code of Ethical Conduct provides:

A. Responsibilities to the Client

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.

18. Comply with all legislation, guidelines, and regulatory requirement that pertain to the profession of physiotherapy.

Practice Guideline

1. A physical therapist may perform spinal manipulation to the competencies for which they have been educated and trained in their recognized educational program and courses or other course recognized by council.
2. Physical therapists practicing spinal manipulation are expected to use professional judgement and act within their individual level of competence.
3. Physical therapists must practice only those manipulative techniques for which they have been trained in and must have completed any and all requirements for that course/level.