

SCPT Practice Resource

Use of Title, Credentials, and Specialist Designation

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 SCPT Regulatory Bylaws provide:

21 No person other than a member shall use the title “Physiotherapist”, “Physical Therapist”, the abbreviation “P.T.”, or any word, title or designation, abbreviated or otherwise, to imply that the person is a member.

Definitions:

Title refers to the words “Physiotherapist”, “Physical Therapist” the abbreviation “P.T.”, or any word, title or designation, abbreviated or otherwise, to imply that the person is a member as defined in the Physical Therapists’ Act of 1998

Credentials refers to words or abbreviations that indicate an educational qualification from an accredited educational institution, certification or specific competency. i.e. academic degrees, diplomas or certificates (BScPT, MPT, PHD, FCAMT, AFCI)

Clinical Specialist - The College recognizes a “clinical specialist” to be a registrant who possesses a specialist certification in a defined area of physiotherapy practice (as approved by the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators clinical speciality recognition review process).

- In order for a registrant to use a title that indicates that he/she is a specialist, the registrant must hold a specialty designation that is approved by the

College.

- The College takes a national approach to the recognition of specialty designations and relies on the rigour of the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators' specialty recognition review process when granting permission to use the title "specialist".
- The College approves specialty certifications recognized by the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy (please contact the Alliance for a current list). As of August 2016, this included Physiotherapy Certification Board of Canada CPA Clinical Specialist program and American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties programs.
- If you have a specialty certification from a program not yet approved, you can ask the Alliance to review the specialty program.
- Registrants entitled to use the title "specialist" may voluntarily choose to have the relevant information indicating the type of specialty certification(s) he or she holds listed in the College's Membership listing area.
- In order to maintain authorization, you must annually at time of renewal confirm you continue to hold the specialty certification.

The SCPT Code of Ethical Conduct provides:

A. Responsibilities to the Client

7. Treat clients only when the diagnosis or continuation of the intervention warrants treatment and is not contraindicated.

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

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

B. Responsibilities to the Public

1. Conduct and present themselves with integrity and professionalism.

C. Responsibilities to Self and the Profession

2. Commit to maintain and enhancing the reputation and standing of the physiotherapy profession, and to inspiring public trust and confidence by treating everyone with dignity and

respect in all interactions.

3. Act honestly, transparently and with integrity in all professional and business practices to uphold the reputation of the profession.

PRACTICE Resource

Physical Therapists:

- use their protected title while engaging in physical therapy practice and when identifying themselves to clients and others.
- ensure that the protected title or credential that includes the protected title directly follows their name in order to show their professional designation and membership with the College. i.e. J. Smith PT or J. Smith BScPT or J. Smith MPT, etc.
- may use other credentials in addition to their protected title with the protected title appearing first in the order of reference. i.e. J. Smith PT BScPT
- ensure that additional credentials are written in a clear manner and when abbreviations are used these must be consistent with what is recommended and/or
- approved by the educational organization responsible for those achievements
- do not use professional association, society or body membership as credentials. i.e. MCPA (member of the CPA)
- may use specialist designations recognized by the council (as outlined in definition of clinical specialist above)
- ensure that if granted permission to use the title “specialist” they use his or her protected title first (i.e. physiotherapist/ physical therapist or PT) followed by his or her approved specialty designation including identifying information of the area of specialty. i.e. J. Smith PT Clinical Specialist (Neurosciences)
- do not use the title ‘doctor’ or (Dr) preceding their name when providing patient care as a physical therapist. The conferred doctoral degree is noted after their name and related PT qualification. The title Dr. may be used for research/academic purposes in non client care settings
- ensure that if practicing more than one discipline they keep their roles, titles, credentials, documentation and billing practice separate and distinct.

REFERENCES

- [Saskatchewan College of Physical Therapists Regulatory Bylaws](#)
- [Physical Therapists' Act 1998](#)
- [Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators](#)
- [Canadian Physiotherapy Association - Clinical Specialty Program](#)
- [College of Physical Therapists of Manitoba - Position Statement - Use of Title and Credentials](#)
- [Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists - Practice Standard - Use of Title and Credentials](#)
- [College of Physiotherapists of Ontario - The use of Restricted Titles, Credentials, and Specialty Designations and Position Statement on Specialty Designations](#)
- [College of Physical Therapists of British Columbia - Practice Standard - Use of Title and Credentials](#)
- [Physiotherapy Alberta - Standard of Practice - Title and Credentials](#)
- [College of Physical Therapists New Brunswick Regulations - Schedule D](#)