

Health Professions Act

**PHYSICAL THERAPISTS
REGULATION**

PROPOSED

**TO REPLACE
B.C. REG. 288/2008**

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Definitions

- 1 In this regulation:

"Act" means the *Health Professions Act*;

"physical therapy" means the ~~treatment of the human body by physical or mechanical means, by manipulation, massage, exercise, the application of bandages, hydrotherapy and medical electricity, for the therapeutic purpose of maintaining or restoring function that has been impaired by injury or disease.~~ health profession in which a person provides the following services:

- (a) Assessing the physical function and structure of the body;
- (b) Providing therapeutic treatment, by physical or mechanical means, to maintain, rehabilitate and augment the body's function and structure;

"registrant" means a registrant who is authorized under the bylaws to practise physical therapy.

College name

- 2 The name "College of Physical Therapists of British Columbia" is the name of the college established under section 15 (1) of the Act for physical therapy.

Reserved titles

- 3 The following titles are reserved for exclusive use by registrants:
- (a) physical therapist;
 - (b) ~~registered physical therapist; physiotherapist.~~
 - (c) ~~physiotherapist;~~
 - (d) ~~registered physiotherapist;~~
 - (e) ~~remedial gymnast;~~
 - (f) ~~registered remedial gymnast.~~

Scope of practice

- 4 A registrant may practise physical therapy.

Restricted activities

- ~~5 (1) No person other than a registrant may practise physical therapy.~~
- ~~(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a person employed by and on the premises of a hospital which has been designated by the minister and who is acting under the direction of a medical practitioner.~~

- 5 A registrant in the course of practising physical therapy may do any of the following:
- (a) Move a joint of the spine beyond the limits the body can voluntarily achieve but within the anatomical range of motion using a high velocity, low amplitude thrust;
 - (b) Administer oxygen by inhalation;
 - (c) For the purpose of airway suctioning, put an instrument
 - (i) beyond the point in the nasal passages where they normally narrow;
 - (ii) beyond the pharynx, or
 - (iii) into an artificial opening into the body.

Limit or condition on service

- ~~6 No registrant may prescribe or administer drugs or anaesthetics, or treat a recent fracture of a bone, except under the direction of a medical practitioner.~~

Restricted activities for certified practice registrants

- 6.1** (1) A registrant in the course of practicing physical therapy may do any of the following:

- (a) For the purpose of reducing inflammation and managing pain, perform a procedure on tissue below the dermis by inserting solid filament needles;
- (b) Reduce a dislocation of a joint;
- (c) For the purpose of assessing and treating the pelvic floor, put an instrument or a device, hand or finger
 - (i) Beyond the labia majora, or
 - (ii) Beyond the anal verge.

(2) A registrant may provide a service that includes the performance of an activity described in subsection (1) only if, before providing the service, the registrant has successfully completed a certification program established, required, or approved under the bylaws to ensure that registrants are qualified and competent to provide that service in the practice setting in which it is to be provided by the registrant.

Restricted activities limited to registrants

6.2 Only a registrant may provide a service that includes the performance of an activity set out in section 5 or 6.1 (1).

Patient relations program

7 The college is designated for the purposes of section 16 (2) (f) of the Act.

Health profession corporations

8 Part 4 of the Act applies to physical therapy.