**TOP TEN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

1. **How long does it take to complete the Clinical Specialty Program?**

The candidate has 3 years to complete Stages I & II of the program.

1. **Who can apply to the Clinical Specialty Program?**

The program is open to all registered physiotherapists in good standing with the college who have a minimum of 5 years FTE applied clinical experience including 3 years FTE clinical experience in the past 5 years in the specialty area, and 300 clinical contact hours in the clinical specialty area annually: 1 year FTE=1800 hours.

1. **What is the total cost to apply to the program?**

There is a non-refundable $500+tax application fee. The total program cost for CPA members is $2150+tax (which can be paid in 2 installments: $1250 & $900). The cost for non-CPA members is $3500+tax (which can be paid in 2 installments: $2200 & $1300).

1. **How long does the Clinical Specialist designation last?**

The designation is good for 10 years from the date of designation as a Clinical Specialist.

1. **Is my Clinical Specialist Certification recognized across Canada?**

Absolutely, it is transportable to every province and territory in Canada.

1. **Will my insurance increase as a result of becoming a Clinical Specialist?**

NO, since the Clinical Specialist designation is within your scope of practice, there is no increase in insurance rates.

1. **What are the nine specialty areas in the Clinical Specialty Program?**

Cardiorespiratory Pain Sciences

Musculoskeletal Seniors’ Health

Neurosciences Sport

Oncology Women’s Health

Paediatrics

1. **Do I have to be the lead researcher to meet the program’s involvement in research requirement and competency?**

There are many options for the program candidate to meet both the program requirement and competency for involvement in research: integration of research tools (e.g., outcome measures, systematic reviews, surveys, clinical practice guidelines) into their clinical practice as part of practice review or analysis, direct involvement in a research study or program evaluation, documentation of a single case study, dissemination of research findings and the promotion of best practice principles within their own practice and facility. Candidates may demonstrate their participation in the selected research activities by providing appropriate documentation (e.g., letters, reports, papers) as part of the portfolio requirement.

1. **Will having my Clinical Specialist designation mean an increase in salary?**

Clinical Specialist designation is not directly linked to a salary scales, however clinical specialists’ have identified the following positive impacts from becoming a clinical specialist: recognition from your professional peers, increased capacity to better articulate self-reflections, increase in the number of opportunities to carry out presentations to health care providers, patient support groups and other health groups, opportunity to take stock of one’s professional and personal developments, recognition from Inter-Professional peers, and the Clinical Specialty designation is transportable and can go anywhere in Canada. Please see [Candidate Handbook](http://physiotherapy.ca/getmedia/8ac03f2e-e061-4d6f-974a-3477bd4eb27b/Candidate-Handbook-Final_pr.pdf.aspx) for more information.

1. **Do I have to be an “Expert” in my specialty area to apply to the program?**

No, the program thresholds identifies Physiotherapists who are operating at a ``Proficient`` level as ideal candidates. The practitioner perceives situations as wholes rather than in terms of chopped up parts or aspects. The Proficient practitioner learns from experience what typical events to expect in a given situation and how plans need to be modified in response to these events. The Proficient practitioner can now recognize when the expected normal picture does not materialize. This holistic understanding improves the proficient practitioner’s decision making; it becomes less laboured because the practitioner now has a perspective on which of the many existing attributes and aspects in the present situation are the important ones.