



Canadian
Physiotherapy
Association

Association
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physiothérapie

Physiotherapy Scope of Practice

* 1. Are you a physiotherapist licensed to practice in Canada and/or work in the field of physiotherapy in Canada?

Yes

No



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Introduction

Objective

The CPA, in collaboration with the Branches, is currently leading an initiative to develop a national Physiotherapy Scope of Practice description. The purpose of this initiative is for the CPA and Branch partners to unite in leading the development of a nationally recognized, profession-informed physiotherapy scope of practice in Canada. The CPA plays a central role in exploring and defining scope towards creating a unified voice of physiotherapy.

The objective of this survey is to gather perspectives from physiotherapy professionals and stakeholders across all Canadian jurisdictions on the topic of physiotherapy scope of practice.

Your feedback will serve to inform the development of a national physiotherapy scope of practice document. The CPA is working collaboratively with our Branches, Divisions, and with the guidance of a Scope of Practice Steering Committee to produce a document that will reflect the current, dynamic scope of practice description of the physiotherapy profession in Canada.

Why is the CPA undertaking this work?

The CPA acknowledges that legislated scope for physiotherapy differs across jurisdictions. For example, legislation differs for activities such as ordering diagnostic imaging, providing pelvic health, treating a wound and acupuncture and dry needling. From ongoing discussions with physiotherapy provincial and territorial Branches, we also know that work to advocate for optimized scope of practice is at different stages.

The CPA and Branches see great value in coordinating to create a national scope description for the profession so that a unified message on the value of physiotherapy can be provided to all levels of government in advocacy discussions. These efforts will support the CPA and Branches as they advocate for improved access to physiotherapy care for Canadians at a time of health system strain.

How can you participate?

It is important to ensure that the CPA gathers a broad range of perspectives from across the country to develop a clear understanding of the issues facing the profession, and how to best unify advocacy efforts and resources to optimize physiotherapy scope of practice. Your participation is crucial to help us understand the current landscape from the perspective of physiotherapists and profession stakeholders.

The survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete. Your responses will remain anonymous and will only be used for research purposes. We may use quotes in

our analysis and presentation of data, but we will not know who has provided them. Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary and you are free to stop or withdraw from the survey at any point without any obligation.

You can go back to a previous question in the survey to amend your answers during completion. However, once you have submitted your survey at the end you will not be able to return. There is no option to 'save and return', but we have provided a PDF version of the survey questions so you can review them before entering and completing the survey online if needed.

The survey will remain open until **Friday 6 October 2023**.

Start the survey by clicking '**Next**'.

Thank you in advance for your time and contribution.



Physiotherapy Scope of Practice About you

* 2. What province or territory do you currently practice in? Select one.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> BC (British Columbia) | <input type="radio"/> NS (Nova Scotia) |
| <input type="radio"/> AB (Alberta) | <input type="radio"/> PE (Prince Edward Island) |
| <input type="radio"/> SK (Saskatchewan) | <input type="radio"/> NL (Newfoundland & Labrador) |
| <input type="radio"/> MB (Manitoba) | <input type="radio"/> YT (Yukon) |
| <input type="radio"/> ON (Ontario) | <input type="radio"/> NU (Nunavut) |
| <input type="radio"/> QC (Québec) | <input type="radio"/> NT (Northwest Territories) |
| <input type="radio"/> NB (New Brunswick) | <input type="radio"/> Not currently practicing |

* 3. Which of the following best describes your current role? Select one.

- Practicing clinician
- Researcher
- Administrator
- Educator
- Clinician scientist/researcher
- Regulatory role
- Student
- Other (please describe)



Physiotherapy Scope of Practice About you

* 4. How long have you been a practicing clinician?

- Less than 2 years
- 2 to 5 years
- 6 to 10 years
- 11 to 15 years
- 16 years and over

* 5. In what setting do you currently practice most of the time? Select one.

- Public practice
- Private practice
- Home care
- Long term care
- Academic/Research setting
- Other (please describe)

*** 6. Which area(s) of physiotherapy do you predominately practice? You can select up to three areas. If you work in more than three areas, please choose the areas where you practice most of the time.**

Acupuncture and/or dry needling

Pain science

Cardiorespiratory

Senior's health

Neurosciences

Sport

Oncology

Pelvic health

Orthopaedic / Musculoskeletal

Ergonomics

Paediatric

Other (please describe)



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Physiotherapy Scope of Practice

Exploring physiotherapy scope of practice | Perceptions

In the 2012 report, 'Description of Physiotherapy in Canada' (CPA, 2012), the Scope of Practice for Physiotherapy reads:

“a profession’s scope of practice encompasses the services its practitioners are educated, competent and authorized to provide. The overall scope of practice for the profession sets the outer limits of practice for all practitioners. The actual scope of practice of individual practitioners is influenced by their continuing professional education, the settings in which they practice, the requirements of the workplace, and the needs of their patients or clients.” (Alliance, CPA & CUPAC, 1998)

Source: <https://physiotherapy.ca/description-of-physiotherapy/>

* 7. **Please describe what you like or dislike about this definition.**



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Physiotherapy Scope of Practice

Exploring physiotherapy scope of practice | Perceptions

* 8. Based on your experiences and understanding, what words come to mind when you read 'physiotherapy scope of practice'?



Physiotherapy Scope of Practice

Exploring physiotherapy scope of practice | Challenges

Provincial branches, and the CPA, acknowledge that legislated scope does not map to the full scope potential, or optimization, for physiotherapy and is not equally mandated across Canada. For example, there are differences with diagnostic imaging and pelvic health.

*** 9. Thinking about your own experiences, how much does the legislated physiotherapy scope act as a barrier in your practice and impact your ability to provide care?**

- Not a barrier at all** - It has no impact on my practice, and I can fully perform my duties without any limitations or concerns
- A slight barrier** - It poses minor obstacles to my practice, but overall, it does not significantly hinder my ability to provide quality care to my patients
- A moderate barrier** - It moderately impacts my practice, creating some limitations that occasionally affect the services I can offer to my patients
- Very much a barrier** - It significantly impedes my practice, leading to considerable restrictions in providing optimal care to my patients
- An extreme barrier** - It severely constrains my practice, making it extremely difficult to deliver the necessary services to my patients and significantly impacting their overall care
- Not applicable** - I'm not a practicing physiotherapist

10. Can you provide an example of a time when the legislated physiotherapy scope of practice limited your ability to care for a patient or client? What were the main challenges/barriers? What was the impact on the patient?

Please do not provide personal or patient identification information. A summary of the circumstances is suitable.



Physiotherapy Scope of Practice

Exploring physiotherapy scope of practice | Changes

* 11. **What one area of physiotherapy would you want to include in your practice as a priority but are unable to do so because of legislative restrictions? Please explain why.**

For example, the ability to order diagnostic imaging (x-ray, MRI, ultrasound), if that is not currently allowed in your province or territory.

* 12. **Thinking about the change you would like to see in the legislated physiotherapy scope of practice, how comfortable would you be in performing these additional activities?**

- Very comfortable** – I have all the training I need and could start straightaway
- Somewhat comfortable** – I would need some light refresher courses and could start quite soon
- Not very comfortable** – I would need some training days before getting started
- Not comfortable at all** – I would need to dedicate quite a bit of time to studying or training before thinking about starting
- Not applicable** – I'm not a practicing physiotherapist



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Physiotherapy Scope of Practice

Exploring physiotherapy scope of practice | Dialogues

* 13. **Based on your experience, how frequently do conversations about your scope of practice (what you are allowed and not allowed to do within legislation), arise with other health professionals or patients?**

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always
- Not applicable - I'm not a practicing physiotherapist



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Physiotherapy Scope of Practice

Exploring physiotherapy scope of practice | Dialogues

You mentioned that you 'Always' or 'Often' have conversations about your scope of practice with other health professionals or patients.

14. **Please provide a summary of the main topics that come up in your conversations.**



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Physiotherapy Scope of Practice Other comments

15. Please share any further comments or suggestions you might have with us.



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Physiotherapy Scope of Practice Knowledge sharing

We are undertaking a knowledge gathering process to support the Scope of Practice initiative. If you have any materials, resources, research articles or additional information that you think would be useful, please share them with us. These materials will be collated and reviewed in support of developing a draft physiotherapy scope of practice description. Thank you in advance.

Please email resources and materials directly to: information@physiotherapy.ca



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Physiotherapy Scope of Practice Survey close

You can review your answers by using the '**Prev**' button before submitting. Please click the '**Done**' button once you are ready.

Thank you for your time and providing this feedback.