

4.23 Use of Title and Credentials

Purpose:

This Practice Direction provides direction to physiotherapists on use of title and credentials in a way that is transparent, accurate, verifiable and meaningful to the public. Public interest is protected through a consistent and clear application of use of title, title abbreviations and credentials. The Physiotherapist uses their title, and other credentials to clearly identify themselves to clients, other health providers and the public.

The legislation protects the public by ensuring that no persons other than a registrant of the College of Physiotherapists of Manitoba may use the titles “physical therapist”, or “physiotherapist” and abbreviations “PT” or an equivalent in another language.

TITLE

Protected Title: refers to the words “physiotherapist”, or “physical therapist”, or abbreviation “PT” as defined and described in *The Physiotherapists Act*.

Employment Title: a specific designation within an organization associated with a job description that details the tasks and responsibilities that go with it.

Clinical Practice: defined for the purpose of this document as providing direct patient care.

Accredited Physiotherapy University Program: An entry to practice physiotherapy program accredited by Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada, or an institution’s physiotherapy entry to practice education program recognized by the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators credentialing program.

Use of Title:

- Registrants **must** use their protected title when engaging in clinical practice. Use of protected title is optional in non-clinical practice. For example, teaching, research or administration.
- When a protected title is used, registrants must list the title immediately after their name as it appears on the register and before academic credentials or other designations. For example: Jane Smith PT, MPT
- The terms “physio” or “therapist” are colloquial terms and are not acceptable abbreviations of the protected title.

- Registrants must not use protected the title when engaged in activities that are outside of the scope of physiotherapy, including but not limited to animal rehabilitation.
- Physiotherapy students enrolled in an accredited physiotherapy educational program must use the title “Physiotherapy Student”, or “Physical Therapy Student” or the acceptable abbreviation PT Student. The student will use this title only during clinical practice. Students may not use the title in alternative situations such as volunteer role or a job, even if it is in the same organization.
- Registrants on the Examination Candidate register must use the title “Physiotherapy Examination Candidate”, or “Physical Therapy Examination Candidate”, or “PT Examination Candidate” after their name and before their credential. As an example, “Jane Smith, PT Examination Candidate, MPT”. (PT Exam Candidate is an acceptable abbreviation, PT EC is not)
- Registrants on the Examination Candidate register must communicate their title “Physiotherapy Examination Candidate”, or “Physical Therapy Examination Candidate” prior to engaging in clinical practice.

USE OF CLINICAL SPECIALIST DESIGNATION

- The College of Physiotherapists of Manitoba has taken the national approach to the process of recognizing specialty certifications. Regarding the use of the Clinical Specialist designation, the physiotherapist can only use the designation Clinical Specialist if they have applied for and received authorization from the Registrar to use the designation “Clinical Specialist”.
- They have received a specialty designation from either:
 - The Physiotherapy Specialty Certification Board of Canada OR
 - The American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties

When using this designation, the specialty designation must be used in conjunction with and follow the protected titles (Physiotherapist, Physical Therapist or PT) and the area of clinical specialty must be identified. For example: Name, Physiotherapist, Clinical Specialist (clinical area)

In order to maintain authorization to use this designation, registrants must confirm they continue to hold the specialty designation annually at time of renewal. The Continuing Competency Program will require evidence of ongoing competence in their declared clinical area to continue to use this designation.

Registrants who have not been granted this authorization or have not maintained their competency must not imply, use the title, or hold themselves out to be a specialist or any other similar designation suggesting a recognized special status, while providing a health service or in actions or interactions undertaken for the purpose of promoting clinical practice.

CREDENTIALS

Credentials: refers to those words or abbreviations that indicate an educational qualification, certification, or specific competency which are used by a physiotherapist in their formal or informal written or verbal communications.

Use of Credentials:

- Use of academic credentials is optional, but registrants must use only academic credentials conferred by an accredited university programs that are verifiable.
- When academic credentials are used, they must be accurate and follow protected title during the course of clinical practice.

- Registrants must not use the title of “Doctor” or prefix “Dr.” preceding their name during the provision of clinical practice. Registrants with doctoral degrees may use the title “Doctor” only with respect to teaching, research, or administration.
- Academic or post-professional credentials not conferred by an accredited university program must be used in a manner that has meaning for the public and be verifiable. These credentials must be written in full.

Examples including but not limited to:

FCAMPT: Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Manipulative Physiotherapy

CHT: Certified Hand Therapist

ACC: Acupuncture Canada Certification

Use of Membership in Associations or Special Interest Group

Membership in Associations or Special Interest Groups are not considered credentials and must be written in full.

For example: MCPA (Member of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association) is not an accepted credential.

Expectations:

Dual Health Care Practices

Some physiotherapists are trained in and practice other regulated or unregulated health disciplines.

Physiotherapists who practice more than one discipline must keep their roles, titles, credentials, documentation, and billing practices separate and distinct.

Multidisciplinary Practice

Records of physiotherapy care must be easily identifiable as physiotherapy records, even when they are part of a multidisciplinary patient file.

Some Examples of Application of Protected Title and Credentials

****Protected Title MUST be used when engaging in Clinical Practice**

1. Use of protected title:
 - John Smith, Physiotherapist
 - John Smith, PT
 - Jane Smith, Physical Therapist
2. Examination Candidate use of protected title:
 - John Smith, Physiotherapy Examination Candidate
 - Jane Smith, Physiotherapy Exam Candidate
 - John Smith, Physical Therapy Examination Candidate
 - Jane Smith, PT Exam Candidate
3. Physiotherapy Student use of protected title:
 - Jane Smith, Physiotherapy Student

- John Smith, Physical Therapy Student
- Jane Smith, PT Student

Note: Protected title must be used when engaging in Clinical Practice.

4. Clinical Specialist with use of protected title:
 - John Smith, Physiotherapist, Clinical Specialist (Neuroscience)
 - Jane Smith, Physical Therapist, Clinical Specialist (Sports)
 - Jane Smith, PT, Clinical Specialist (Women's Health)
5. Use of University degrees for Non-Clinical Practice:
 - John Smith, MPT
 - John Smith, BMR(PT)
 - Jane Smith, MPT, MSc
 - Jane Smith, MPT, MSc, PhD or John Smith, PhD, MSc, MPT
6. Use of the Title Doctor for Non-Clinical Practice:
 - John Smith, PHD
 - Dr. Jane Smith
7. Use of University degrees for Clinical Practice:
 - John Smith, PT, MPT or John Smith, Physiotherapist, MPT
 - Jane Smith, PT, MPT, MSc, PhD or John Smith, PT, PhD, MSc, MPT
 - John Smith, PT, BMR(PT)
 - Jane Smith, PT, MPT, MSc
 - John Smith, Physiotherapy Exam Candidate, MPT

Note: Using University degree in addition to a protected title is optional when engaging in Clinical Practice.

8. Use of credentials not granted by a university:
 - John Smith, PT, MPT
Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Manipulative Physiotherapy
Certified Hand Therapist
 - Jane Smith, Physiotherapist, MSc, BMR(PT)
Acupuncture Canada Certification
Member of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association
9. Use of credentials and Employment Title in Administration:
 - Jane Smith, PT, MPT
Manager of Rehabilitation Services
 - John Smith, MPT, MSc
Manager of Rehabilitation Services

- Jane Smith, PT
Director of Physiotherapy
10. Use of credentials and Employment Title in Clinical Care:
- John Smith, Physiotherapist, BMR(PT)
Clinical Services Leader
 - Jane Smith, PT
Clinical Services Leader