

### 4.23 Titles, Credentials, and Specialty Designations

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#### Standard:

The physiotherapist uses their title and other credentials to clearly identify themselves to clients, other health-care providers, and the public.

#### Expected outcome

Clients can expect that the physiotherapist represents their titles and credentials in a way that is transparent, accurate, verifiable, meaningful to the public, not misleading.

#### Performance expectations

Regarding use of their **protected title**, the physiotherapist must:

- A. Use their protected title in all professional actions and interactions.
- B. List their protected title immediately after their name as it appears on the public register and before academic credentials or other designations. For example: Jane Smith cPT, MPT
- C. On the General Register use the titles and initials:
  - Physical Therapist,
  - Physiotherapist, or
  - PT
- D. On the Student/Exam Candidate/Other Register use the titles:
  - i. Physiotherapy students enrolled in an accredited physiotherapy educational program must use the title:
    - Physiotherapy Student, or
    - Physical Therapy Student
    - 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.
  - ii. 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.
    - Example: Jane Smith, PT Examination Candidate, MPT.  
(PT EC is not an acceptable abbreviation)
  - Registrants on the Examination Candidate register must communicate their title Physiotherapy Examination Candidate, or Physical Therapy Examination Candidate prior to engaging in clinical practice.
- E. On the Temporary Register use the titles and initials granted to the registrant in accordance with the physiotherapist’s registration status in their primary jurisdiction.
- F. Not use protected title when engaged in activities that are outside of the practice of physiotherapy (e.g., animal rehabilitation, personal training, nutrition counselling).

**Regarding the use of academic and other credentials, the physiotherapist:**

- G. Only use academic credentials conferred by **accredited university programs**.
- H. Use academic credentials accurately and lists them after their protected title.
- I. Use post-professional credentials accurately, and lists them after protected title, and in a manner that has meaning for the public.
  - Use of academic credentials in addition to protected title is optional.
- J. Not use the title “Doctor” or prefix “Dr” in connection with providing a health service or in actions or interactions undertaken for the purpose of promoting health services to the public.
- K. Physiotherapist who are trained and practice other regulated or unregulated health disciplines must keep their roles, titles and credentials, separate and distinct.

**Regarding use of the term specialist and derivatives thereof, the physiotherapist must:**

- L. Not use the title Clinical Specialist or imply or hold themselves out to be a specialist in connection with providing a physiotherapy service unless:
- i. They have received a specialty designation from either:
    - The Physiotherapy Specialty Certification Board of Canada<sup>1</sup> OR
    - The American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties.<sup>2</sup>

- ii. They have applied for and received authorization from the College of Physiotherapists of Manitoba (CPM) to use the title “Clinical Specialist”.
  - iii. They do so in a manner consistent with regulatory rules
  - iv. The specialty designation must be used in conjunction with and follow the protected titles and the area of clinical specialty must be identified: For example: Name, Physiotherapist, Clinical Specialist (clinical area)
- M. 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.

### **Use of Academic or post-professional credentials not conferred by an accredited university program**

- N. Must be used in a manner that has meaning for the public and be verifiable. These credentials must be written in full below the name.

For example:

- Jody Smith, PT, MPT  
Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Manipulative Physiotherapy  
Certified Hand Therapist

### **Use of Membership in Associations or Special Interest Group**

- O. Membership in Associations or Special Interest Groups are not considered credentials and must be written in full below the name.

### **Definitions**

**Accredited university program** means an entry to practice education physiotherapy program accredited by Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, or an institution’s physiotherapy entry to practice education program recognized by the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators credentialing program.

**Protected title** refers to the titles identified under provincial or territorial health profession legislation as being restricted to those who are registered and authorized to practice physiotherapy within the jurisdiction.

**Temporary Registration** is a temporary registration certificate that allows licenced physiotherapists from other jurisdictions to teach an educational course or participate in an education program, research activities or in a specific event of limited time.