College of Physiotherapists of Manitoba

PRACTICE DIRECTION

Current and updated as of: January 14, 2025

Titles, Credentials, and Specialty Designations

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 PT, 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 academic 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 uses academic credentials conferred by **accredited university programs.**
   - Use of academic credentials in addition to protected title is optional.

H. Uses academic credentials accurately and lists them after their protected title.

I. Uses post-professional credentials accurately, and lists them after protected title, and in a manner that has meaning for the public.
   - These credentials not conferred by an accredited university program must be written in full. Examples including but not limited to:
     FCAMPT: Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Manipulative Physiotherapy

J. No person shall use the title "doctor" or a variation or abbreviation or an equivalent in another language in the course of providing health care unless the person is permitted to use the title, variation or abbreviation by the *Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA)* or another Act.

   - The use of the title Doctor is only conferred to physiotherapists who have successfully completed the requirements for a post-graduate university doctoral degree (PhD) in a related medical field that permits the use of the title "Doctor"

   - The Physiotherapist must use their protected title in addition to the use of the title "Doctor" or Prefix "Dr."

   - This requirement does not apply to individuals using the title "doctor", or any variation, abbreviation or an equivalent in another language, when it is used in connection with teaching, research or administration.

K. Physiotherapists who are trained and practice other regulated or unregulated health disciplines must keep their roles, titles and credentials, separate and distinct, and not use other protected titles unless authorized to do so by the appropriate regulatory body.

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[1] OR
- The American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties.[2]

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

[1] Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA). "Clinical Specialist Program." Available at: https://physiotherapy.ca/education-events/clinical-specialist-program/. Accessed on May 27, 2026.

[2] American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). "Specialization Program." Available at: https://specialization.apta.org/. Accessed on [insert date accessed].

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.

Related Standards:
Advertising and Marketing
Conflict of Interest
Communication

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.