

College of Physical Therapists of British Columbia
Public Notice under s. 39.3 of the Health Professions Act

Guy Robertson, RPT

Location: Vancouver, BC

Date of Action: February 2, 2021

Nature of Action: Mr. Robertson entered into a consent agreement with the Inquiry Committee of the College agreeing to the following terms:

1. a 14-day suspension of his practice of physical therapy (to commence on February 5, 2021);
2. a public reprimand for providing dry needling to patients in direct contravention of his registration with the College as an Interim Registrant and without being admitted to the College's dry needling roster;
3. an undertaking to write a paper reflecting on his conduct and detailing how he will conduct himself in the future, specifically referencing the College's Practice Standards and Code of Ethical Conduct;
4. an undertaking to write a letter to his supervisor, apologizing for failing to be forthright about his practice and reflecting on what it means to be a professional; and
5. an undertaking not to repeat the conduct of practicing outside the terms and limits of his registration class in the practice of physical therapy.

Reasons: The Inquiry Committee commenced an investigation on its own motion pursuant to section 33(4) of the *Health Professions Act* (the "Act") after receiving information that Mr. Robertson contravened the terms and limits of his Interim Registration with the College.

During the investigation, Mr. Robertson admitted to providing dry needling to multiple patients on multiple occasions (both in and out of BC) while an Interim Registrant and without being admitted to the College's dry needling roster. Mr. Robertson said he was qualified to provide dry needling under the terms of his Australian licence to practice physical therapy and confirmed that he held international practice insurance at the time. However, the practice of physical therapy in BC is regulated by the College; therefore, Mr. Robertson was required to comply with the terms and limits of his Interim Registration while practicing in BC. Further, the Inquiry Committee was concerned that Mr. Robertson did not contact the College to clarify whether he was permitted to rely on his international credentials/insurance (either in or out of BC). The Inquiry Committee was also concerned that Mr. Robertson failed to inform his supervisor that he was providing dry needling to patients.

The Inquiry Committee concluded that Mr. Robertson's conduct represented an unacceptable departure from the College's practice standards and Code of Ethical Conduct, which require registrants to comply with the terms and limits of their registration and conduct themselves with honesty, integrity and transparency.

Given that Mr. Robertson has accepted responsibility for his misconduct, the Inquiry Committee determined that the terms of the consent agreement would be sufficient to protect the public.