



Assessment, Diagnosis, Treatment

Applies to Physical Therapists

The College of Health and Care Professionals of BC was created on June 28, 2024 through the amalgamation of seven health regulatory colleges:

- College of Dietitians of British Columbia
- College of Occupational Therapists of British Columbia
- College of Optometrists of British Columbia
- College of Opticians of British Columbia
- College of Physical Therapists of British Columbia
- College of Psychologists of British Columbia
- College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of British Columbia

All current requirements for standards of clinical and ethical practice issued by the seven colleges remain in place upon amalgamation.

This document was created by the College of Physical Therapists of British Columbia and will be updated to reflect the amalgamation.

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CPTBC
College of Physical Therapists
of British Columbia

STANDARD

The physical therapist demonstrates proficiency in client assessment, diagnosis, and treatment to deliver quality, safe, client-centered physical therapy services.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

Clients can expect the physical therapist to select appropriate assessment procedures, make an informed diagnosis, and apply treatment procedures that are carried out proficiently for quality delivery of safe, effective physical therapy services.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

The physical therapist:

1. Obtains the client's ongoing informed consent to proposed physical therapy services.
2. Applies professional judgment to select and apply appropriate assessment procedures to evaluate the client's health status. Appropriate assessment includes but is not limited to taking a history and completing a physical examination relevant to presenting symptoms.
3. Uses standardized measures as available to assess and reassess the client's condition and progress.
4. Uses critical thinking and professional judgment to interpret the assessment findings and determine a physical therapy diagnosis and prognosis consistent with the scope of practice of the physical therapy profession and the physical therapist's individual competence.
5. Addresses the client's physical therapy needs and goals by employing professional judgment to develop treatment plans that are consistent with the assessment findings.
6. Applies treatment procedures safely and effectively.
7. Assigns appropriate tasks to supervisees with the client's consent.
8. Monitors the client's responses and re-evaluates them throughout the course of treatment.
9. Makes adjustments and/or discontinues physical therapy services that are no longer required or effective.
10. Makes appropriate referrals when the client's needs are best addressed in collaboration with or by another provider.
11. Employs professional judgment to plan and implement discharge plans appropriate for the client's needs, goals, and progress.
12. Provides client education to enable and optimize the client's transition to self-management.
13. Promotes continuity in service by collaborating and facilitating the client's transition from one health sector or provider to another.
14. Delivers only those physical therapy services that are clinically indicated for the client and that they are competent to provide.

RELATED STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

- Informed Consent
- Supervision