



Conflict of Interest

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.

Conflict of Interest



STANDARD

The physical therapist identifies and avoids, or discloses and mitigates, any real, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

Clients can expect that the physical therapist delivers physical therapy services that are in the client's interest and that real, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest are avoided or disclosed and mitigated.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

The physical therapist:

1. Identifies situations of real, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest involving themselves or someone with whom they have a close personal relationship.
2. Does not enter into any agreement or arrangement that prevents or could prevent the physical therapist from putting the client and the client's needs and interests first.
3. Does not use professional status and the credibility afforded by professional status for purposes unrelated to physical therapy.
4. Does not participate in any activity in which professional judgment could be compromised or which is for personal gain. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - 4.1 paying for or providing other benefits to others in return for referrals;
 - 4.2 providing referrals to others in return for payment or other benefits.
 - 4.3 contracts that incentivize:
 - 4.3.1 the sale of physical therapy products or non-physical therapy services by the physical therapist, by providing financial or other benefits to the physical therapist;

RELATED STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

- Boundary Violations
- Communication
- Documentation
- Informed Consent

- 4.3.2 the physical therapist to discharge a client in return for financial or other benefits;
- 4.3.3 the physical therapist to continue to treat a client in return for financial or other benefits.
- 4.4 self-referring a client for personal or financial gain.
5. Avoids participating in other activities that another person would conclude pose a real, potential, or perceived conflict of interest. In situations where a conflict of interest cannot be avoided, the physical therapist must:
 - 5.1 provide full disclosure of the conflict of interest to the client and others as appropriate; and
 - 5.2 document in a complete, and transparent, manner how the conflict was managed.
6. Avoids providing physical therapy services to individuals with whom they have a close personal relationship. In situations where this conflict of interest cannot be avoided the physical therapist must:
 - 6.1 identify the risks related to providing the physical therapy services, including the client's ability to freely consent or withdraw consent, and the measures they will adopt to limit these risks;
 - 6.2 document and disclose the conflict of interest to the client and others, including third-party payers, indicating how the relationship is to the client's benefit and complies with regulatory requirements.