



Informed Consent

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.

Informed Consent



CPTBC

College of Physical Therapists
of British Columbia

STANDARD

The physical therapist obtains clients' ongoing informed consent for the delivery of physical therapy services.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

Clients can expect that they will be informed of the options, risks, and benefits of proposed physical therapy services, that they will be asked to provide their consent, and that the physical therapist will respect their right to question, refuse options, rescind consent and/or withdraw from physical therapy services at any time.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

The physical therapist:

1. Provides the client with the information a reasonable person would require to understand and make a decision about the proposed assessment and treatment including:
 - 1.1 the condition for which treatment is proposed;
 - 1.2 the nature of the proposed physical therapy services;
 - 1.3 the risks and benefits of physical therapy assessment and treatment;
 - 1.4 treatment options, and the consequences of participating or not in the proposed assessment or treatment.
2. Communicates in a way that reflects the client's skills and abilities.
3. Provides an opportunity for the client to ask questions and receive answers.
4. Obtains the client's consent following a discussion of the proposed assessment or treatment and prior to beginning assessment and treatment.
5. Obtains informed consent from the client in writing or verbally, as determined by the nature and severity of rare and common risks of the proposed physical therapy services.
6. Documents that consent was obtained and the details relevant to the clinical situation.
7. Re-establishes and documents consent in instances where treatment plans change.
8. Respects the client's right to question, decline options, refuse, rescind consent and/or withdraw from physical therapy services at any time.
9. Obtains informed consent from the appropriate individual, according to applicable legislation and regulatory requirements, in cases when the client is incapable of providing consent.
10. Acts in accordance with applicable legislation and the ethical principles of beneficence and least harm in instances where urgent or emergent care is required for a client who is incapable of providing consent if consent cannot be obtained from the appropriate alternate decisionmaker.
11. In situations of physical therapy research, obtains informed consent from the client prior to their participation in studies consistent with the requirements of the appropriate research ethics authority.

RELATED STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

- Assessment, Diagnosis, Treatment
- Communication
- Documentation