



Risk Management and Safety

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.

Risk Management and Safety



CPTBC
College of Physical Therapists
of British Columbia

STANDARD

The physical therapist promotes and maintains a safe environment for clients, healthcare providers, themselves, and others.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

Clients can expect to be safe in the care of the physical therapist and in the practice environment, and that any client safety incidents will be appropriately addressed and disclosed promptly and transparently.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

RELATED TO RISK IDENTIFICATION AND MITIGATION

The physical therapist:

1. Identifies potential client safety risks relevant to the practice setting, method of service delivery, and client population served.
2. Verifies that there are policies and procedures in place related to risk and crisis management and is knowledgeable about these procedures.
3. Incorporates appropriate measures to mitigate/manage identified risks and adheres to safety best practices.

RELATED TO PHYSICAL THERAPIST TRAINING

The physical therapist:

4. Maintains their competency in safety protocols, procedures and risk mitigation measures relevant to their practice.
5. Participates in emergency preparedness and response training appropriate to the practice setting, method of service delivery, client population served, and identified safety risks.

RELATED TO CLIENT INTERACTIONS

The physical therapist:

6. Provides a clean and safe physical therapy practice environment.

RELATED STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

- Assessment, Diagnosis, Treatment
- Infection Control

7. Confirms that all equipment and electrophysical modalities are:
 - 7.1 clean, safe, and maintained;
 - 7.2 calibrated in accordance with manufacturer specifications.
8. Retains documentation of equipment calibration and maintenance.
9. Verifies the client's identity to confirm that the correct physical therapy services are provided.
10. Applies appropriate safety procedures when using equipment or electrophysical modalities.

RELATED TO RESPONDING TO CLIENT SAFETY INCIDENTS

The physical therapist:

11. Recognizes the occurrence of client safety incidents and near misses.
12. Responds immediately to client safety incidents to minimize the impact on the client.
13. Documents client safety incidents and near misses in the client record and completes reports in accordance with employer policies and procedures.
14. Contributes to the collection of data to identify, manage, remediate, and prevent potential risks and client safety incidents relevant to the practice setting and population served.
15. Discloses details of client safety incidents related to physiotherapy services to the client and appropriate parties promptly and transparently.