



Supervision

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.

Supervision



CPTBC

College of Physical Therapists
of British Columbia

STANDARD

The physical therapist is responsible and accountable for the physical therapy services provided by personnel working under their supervision (supervisees), and for providing appropriate supervision, in accordance with the client's needs, supervisee's skills and competencies, identified risks, and the context of practice.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

Clients can expect that they are informed of the role of supervisees, have consented to services provided by supervisees, and that the physical therapy services provided by supervisees are supervised by the physical therapist.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

When supervising an unregulated health provider working as a physical therapist support worker, the physical therapist:

1. Is aware that a supervisor-supervisee relationship and related supervision responsibilities exist any time an unregulated health provider delivers physical therapy services that the physical therapist assigned.
2. Assigns only those tasks/activities that the supervisor is competent to perform.
3. Assesses the knowledge, skills, and judgment of the physical therapist support worker.
4. Assigns only those tasks/activities that the physical therapist support worker is competent to perform.
5. Assesses the client to determine whether it is appropriate for them to receive physical therapy services from a physical therapist support worker.
6. Communicates to the client the roles, responsibilities, and accountability of the physical therapist support worker participating in the delivery of physical therapy services.
7. Obtains the client's informed consent for the delivery of physical therapy services by a physical therapist support worker.
8. Uses mechanisms (e.g., name tags, introduction) so that a physical therapist support worker is readily identifiable.
9. Employs direct or indirect supervision strategies appropriate to the competence of the physical therapist support worker, the client's care needs, identified risks, and other factors related to the practice environment.
10. Establishes ongoing and timely communication with the physical therapist support worker.
11. Monitors and evaluates the delivery of physical therapy services by the physical therapist support worker.
12. Monitors documentation by a physical therapist support worker.
13. Reassesses the client, monitors and evaluates the delivery of physical therapy services by a physical therapist support worker and client outcomes, modifying or reassigning service delivery as determined by the client's needs.
14. Must not assign the following activities to physical therapist support workers:
 - 14.1 any physical therapy treatment that would require the physical therapist support worker to employ clinical reasoning, analysis and decision-making to change the established plan of care without the input of the supervising physical therapist
 - 14.2 interpretation of referrals, diagnosis or prognosis
 - 14.3 interpretation of assessment findings
 - 14.4 determination of treatment and treatment goals and the planning development or modification of treatment plans beyond pre-set parameters
 - 14.5 discussion of treatment rationale, clinical findings and prognosis with the client
 - 14.6 any restricted activity, or portion

thereof, authorized to the physical therapist

14.7 documentation that should be completed by the physical therapist

14.8 discharge planning

15. Reassigns the supervision of physical therapist support workers to another physical therapist when the physical therapist is not available to supervise.
16. Advises the client and employer(s) that delivery of physical therapy services by physical therapist support workers must be discontinued when physical therapist supervision is not available.
17. Establishes, maintains, and attempts to re-establish professional boundaries with the physical therapist support worker.

When supervising a student physical therapist, the physical therapist:

18. Is aware that a supervisor-supervisee relationship and related supervision responsibilities exist any time they agree to act as a preceptor for a student and that the student physical therapist is delivering physical therapy services.
19. Allows them to perform only those activities that the supervisor is competent to perform.
20. Assesses the knowledge, skills, and judgment of the student physical therapist.
21. Allows them to perform only those activities that the student physical therapist is competent to perform.
22. Identifies whether a client is appropriate to receive physical therapy services from a student physical therapist.
23. Communicates to the client the roles, responsibilities, and accountability of a student physical therapist participating in the delivery of physical therapy services.
24. Ensures that the client has provided informed consent for the delivery of physical therapy services by a student physical therapist.
25. Uses mechanisms (e.g., name tags, introduction) so that the student physical therapist is readily identifiable.

RELATED STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

- Assessment, Diagnosis, Treatment
 - Conflict of Interest
 - Informed Consent
26. Employs direct or indirect supervision strategies appropriate to the competence of the student physical therapist, the client's care needs, identified risks, and other factors related to the practice environment.
 27. Establishes ongoing communication processes with the student physical therapist.
 28. Reviews and countersigns documentation by a student physical therapist and confirms that this documentation is in accordance with regulatory requirements.
 29. Monitors and evaluates the delivery of physical therapy services by a student physical therapist and client outcomes, modifying or reassigning service delivery as determined by the client's needs.
 30. Complies with legislative and regulatory rules regarding performance and supervision of restricted activities by student physical therapists.
 31. Reassigns the supervision of a student physical therapist to another physical therapist when the physical therapist is not available to supervise.
 32. Advises the client and employer(s) that delivery of physical therapy services by a student physical therapist must be discontinued when physical therapist supervision is not available.
 33. Establishes, maintains, and attempts to re-establish professional boundaries with the student physical therapist.