



# Titles, Credentials and Specialty Designations

## 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.

# Titles, Credentials and Specialty Designations



**CPTBC**  
College of Physical Therapists  
of British Columbia

## STANDARD

The physical therapist uses their title and other credentials to clearly identify themselves to clients, other healthcare providers, and the public.

## EXPECTED OUTCOME

Clients can expect that the physical therapist represents their titles and credentials in a way that is transparent, accurate, verifiable, meaningful to the public, and not misleading.

## PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

Regarding use of their protected title, the physical therapist:

1. Uses their protected title in all professional actions and interactions.
2. Uses their name as it appears on the registrant directory.
3. Lists their protected title immediately after their name and before academic credentials or other designations.
4. Does not use protected title when engaged in activities that are outside of the scope of practice of physical therapy.

### Full registrants use the title:

- Physical Therapist, OR
- Physiotherapist, OR
- PT

### Student registrants use the title:

- Student Physical Therapist, OR
  - Student Physiotherapist, OR
  - Student PT
5. Physical therapists with temporary registration use the title and initials granted to them in accordance with their registration status in their primary jurisdiction.

## RELATED STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

- Communication
- Conflict of Interest
- Marketing and Advertising

When choosing to use academic and other credentials, the physical therapist:

6. Only uses academic credentials as conferred by accredited university programs.
7. Uses academic credentials accurately and lists them after their protected title.
8. Uses post-professional credentials accurately, and lists them after protected title, and in a manner that has meaning for the public.
9. Does not use the title “Doctor” or prefix “Dr” in connection with providing physical therapy services or in actions or interactions undertaken for the purpose of promoting physical therapy services to the public.

Regarding use of the term specialist and derivatives thereof, the physical therapist:

10. Does not use the title Clinical Specialist or imply or hold themselves out to be a specialist in connection with providing a physical therapy service unless:
  - 10.1 they have received a specialty designation from either the Physiotherapy Specialty Certification Board of Canada or the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties; and
  - 10.2 they have applied to, and received authorization from the College to use the title Clinical Specialist.
11. Lists the designation after their protected title if approved and authorized by the College to do so.