

How PABC & CHCPBC Differ in British Columbia



PHYSIOTHERAPY
ASSOCIATION OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA

As a physiotherapist working in British Columbia, it's important to know where to turn when you have questions or need support. This document helps clarify the distinct and overlapping roles and services of the Physiotherapy Association of British Columbia (PABC) and the College of Health and Care Professionals of BC (CHCPBC).



PHYSIOTHERAPY
ASSOCIATION OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA



College of
**HEALTH AND CARE
PROFESSIONALS OF BC**

The Physiotherapy Association of BC (PABC) is a member-based professional association that has supported physiotherapists in BC for over 75 years. PABC is governed by an elected Board of Directors representing diverse regions and practice areas.

What PABC does:

- Advocates for the profession, individual physiotherapists, and patients.
- Represents the profession's interests to government, insurers, health authorities, and the public.
- Provides member support, legal advice, professional development, networking, and community engagement opportunities.

Professional Association mandate: support, represent, and advance the interests of a specific profession and its members.

Key Takeaways



PHYSIOTHERAPY
ASSOCIATION OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA

CHCPBC obtains its authority through the Health Professions Act.

CHCPBC is the regulatory body for nine health professions in BC, including physical therapists. The CHCPBC's primary role is to protect the public by ensuring that health professionals:

- Meet entry-to-practice requirements.
- Follow standards of practice, bylaws, and codes of ethics.
- Maintain ongoing competence.
- Are accountable for safe and ethical care.

Specific responsibilities of the CHCPBC include:

- Setting entry to practice requirements
- Investigating complaints and taking appropriate action to ensure client safety.
- Administering a quality assurance program to ensure registrants remain competent throughout their careers
- Developing and enforcing professional and ethical standards
- Issuing and renewing health profession corporation permits for physical therapy.
- Providing practice advice regarding the relevant legislation, regulations, bylaws, practice standards, and code of ethics that physical therapists are required to follow in BC.

CHCPBC's mandate is to serve and protect the public as laid out through provincial legislation.

- PABC: Your professional association for advocacy, member support, community, and professional growth to meet the mandate of supporting, representing and advancing the profession of physiotherapy
- CHCPBC: Your regulatory college, ensuring safe, competent, and ethical practice in BC to meet the mandate of protection of the public.
- Knowing which organization(s) to contact helps you get the right support — when you need it.
- Most questions are complex and will benefit from the perspective of both organizations (the College and the Association) — reaching out to both will help ensure you get the support you need.

PABC Professional Association	Category	CHCPBC Regulatory Body
Provides individual BC-specific legal support for contracts, HR, audits, complaints, and business issues	<i>Legal & Ethical Support</i>	Practice Advisors assist with increasing registrants' awareness of the College Bylaws, Code of Ethical Conduct, and Standards of Practice which provide the legal and ethical framework for practice in BC.
Clinical practice and business support (phone, email, or online)	<i>Practice Support</i>	Practice Advisors provide confidential, profession-specific information related to regulation (e.g., standards of practice, bylaws, and code of ethics).
PABC App: connect with peers, staff, updates, and discussion forums, access to library resources	<i>Technology & Connection</i>	N/A
Fireside Chats (virtual), in-person Town Halls, and working groups addressing BC physiotherapy issues	<i>Events & Networking</i>	Various ad hoc events, such as webinars, related to regulation
Advocacy campaigns and engagement with government, insurers, and CHCPBC	<i>Advocacy & Representation</i>	CHCPBC does not engage in traditional professional advocacy. However, CHCPBC does advocate for change related to Regulation.
CEO Weekly Updates on topics like ICBC, MSP, WorkSafeBC, and fee guidelines	<i>Communications</i>	Email notifications to registrants, newsletter, website, social media
Mentorship program (in development) Communities of Practice by area	<i>Mentorship & Peer Support</i>	Practice Advisors provide informal mentorship related to regulatory issues.
Podcasts and blogs featuring guests, partners, and advocacy updates	<i>Media & Education</i>	Various ad hoc events related to regulation.
Online courses, webinars, clinical toolkits, and position statements (e.g., dry needling, pelvic health, AI)	<i>Learning Resources</i>	A variety of resources related to interpretation of Standards of Practice and other regulatory requirements
Position statements and resources on clinical topics	<i>Clinical Guidance</i>	N/A
Clinical and professional resources	<i>Publications & Tools</i>	Resources related to regulatory requirements (such as infection prevention and control, privacy, consent, and virtual practice)
Resources on Indigenous health, substance use, 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusion	<i>Social Justice</i>	Various resources related to Indigenous cultural safety, anti-racism, anti-discrimination, 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusion, equity and diversity.
Discounts on courses, job ads, business ads, exclusive partner deals	<i>Discounts & Benefits</i>	N/A