College of
HEALTH AND CARE
PROFESSIONALS OF BC

Certified practices

Frequently asked questions

Where can I find information about the interpretation of a restricted activity and whether it requires certification?

Restricted activities are listed in the **Regulated Health Practitioners Regulation**. The regulation that is specific to the professions of CHCPBC, the **Health and Care Professionals Regulation**, includes which restricted activities are granted to each profession.

When a restricted activity is limited, a profession-specific purpose is listed in the regulation to better clarify the context and scope of the activity that can be performed. The regulation also indicates whether the activity requires certification.

For example, for physical therapy, here is an excerpt from the Health and Care Professionals Regulation:

Other limited restricted activities

50 (1) A physical therapist may administer oxygen by inhalation.

(2) A physical therapist may insert an instrument beyond the point in the nasal passages where they normally narrow, beyond the pharynx or into an artificial opening into the body for the purpose of airway suctioning.

Restricted activities if certified

51 (1) A certified physical therapist may perform a procedure on tissue below the dermis by inserting solid filament needles for the purpose of reducing inflammation or managing pain.

(2) A certified physical therapist may reduce a dislocation of a joint.

(3) A certified physical therapist may insert an instrument, device, hand or finger beyond the labia majora or anal verge for the purpose of assessing or treating the pelvic floor.

This means a physical therapist **may only** insert an instrument, device, hand or finger beyond the labia majora or anal verge if 1) they are certified, and 2) it is for the purpose of assessing or treating the pelvic floor.

If you have questions regarding the **interpretation of specific restricted activities**, please reach out to **practicesupport@chcpbc.org**.

If you have questions about the **process to become certified**, please contact **certification@chcpbc.org**.

Why is there an additional fee to be certified?

The regulation and oversight of certifications require additional resources to regular annual licensing. Certification applications involve review to ensure licensees meet the requirements of a certification program, additional processing and communication with licensees, and updating of the public registry. Not all healthcare professionals are authorized to perform certified practices, and it is therefore not part of the calculation to establish licensing fees.

Additionally, there are incremental costs in other regulatory programs associated with certifications. For example, Certified restricted activities are considered higher risk practices that may require the development of support resources (e.g., specific criteria for quality assurance) and can lead to more complex and costly complaint investigations.

CHPCBC fees were set based on the cost of administering existing certifications at that time. We will re-evaluate the costs of administering certifications and recommend changes if and when appropriate.

A listing of certification fees is included in **CHCPBC's fee schedule**.

Where can I find more information about changes to restricted activities and certified practices?

Licensees can learn more about changes to restricted activities and certified practices by viewing the **Profession-Specific Webinars** and the **Licensure** session of the **HPOA Licensee Webinar Series**.

Why has the pre-application process been discontinued for audiology, hearing instrument dispensing, and speech-language pathology as of August 2026?

The pre-application process was not being applied to other health professions regulated by CHCPBC and did not align with a "right-touch regulation" approach. Administration of the process was complicated, which delayed licensees starting their certification programs.

Now, the application process for certified practices is consistent across professions. The requirements for each certification program are proportionate to the risks associated with that certified restricted activity. Requirements are also aligned with the licensee responsibilities defined in the *Health Professions and Occupations Act* (HPOA), the HPOA's Health and Care Professionals Regulation, CHCPBC Bylaws, and **Ethics and Practice Standards**.

How were the requirements for the new certification program for intrapelvic health in physical therapy developed?

Certification program requirements were determined through a review of regulatory requirements for intrapelvic health practice across Canada, and consultation and validation with physical therapy subject matter experts in intrapelvic health who work as clinicians and educators in public and private healthcare settings.

The program requirements represent a reasonable number of hours of evaluated theory and practical learning for licensees to practice intrapelvic health ethically, competently, and safely.

The **Competency Framework for Intrapelvic Health** outlines learning objectives and competencies to support physical therapists in selecting courses that meet their learning needs, within the area(s) of intrapelvic health practice that best suited to the patients they serve. The framework enables CHCPBC to deliver a single certified practice that may include one or more areas of intrapelvic health practice.

More information on this work is available in the appendix within the Competency Framework for Intrapelvic Health.

I already completed a course that used to be accepted for intrapelvic practice, but it doesn't meet the new certification program requirement. What should I do?

You can complement the course hours you already completed by reviewing the **learning objectives and competencies** needed for the area of intrapelvic health you plan to practise. Look for courses that complement the learning objectives of the course you already completed and enable you to meet the 30-hour coursework requirement.

If your course already covered the requirement for evaluated theory and practical learning, you may want to consider supplementing it with additional evaluated practical learning hours.