

September 2019 | [**www.collegept.org**](http://www.collegept.org/) | [**info@collegept.org**](mailto:info@collegept.org)

Welcome to the September issue of Perspectives.

I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable summer. As we prepare for a busy fall season, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for a productive and successful year for the College. Our [**Annual Repor t**](https://www.collegept.org/Assets/website/annual_reports/2018-2019/content/index.html%23/lessons/kHmHDjhdge3pp7bLafpVvU5I4ekGRRQH) is now available, which highlights our accomplishments. I encourage everyone to give it a read and as always, do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Rod Hamilton Registrar

College of Physiotherapists of Ontario

# Dating a Former Patient – The One-Year Rule

By now all PTs in Ontario should be well aware of the changes that came with Bill 87 and their professional duty to keep appropriate boundaries with patients. The Boundaries and Sexual Abuse Standard states: "*physiotherapists must not enter into intimate or romantic relationships with their patients or their patients' relatives or support persons*."

### Entering into a romantic relationship with a patient is considered sexual abuse and can result in the loss of your ability to practice as a physiotherapist.

Additionally, a physiotherapist must not enter a romantic relationship with a former patient until at least **one year** has passed since the patient was discharged from physiotherapy care. That's right, a former patient is still considered a patient for one full year.

Before entering a relationship, PTs must be sure that the imbalance of power inherent in the therapeutic relationship between the PT and the patient no longer exists, and the patient is no longer dependent on the physiotherapist.

[**Read the Standard**](https://www.collegept.org/rules-and-resources/new-boundaries-and-sexual-abuse)

# Does Your Email Address or Signature Say Doctor?

A reminder that the Restricted Titles, Credentials and Specialty Designations Standard prohibits physiotherapists from using the title "doctor" or "Dr." in the course of providing

physiotherapy care.



This extends to public facing email addresses and communication. So if your email address or email signature includes "*doctor"* or "*Dr.",* consider changing it as soon as possible. Dr. should not appear on ***anything*** a patient would see or receive during their patient experience.

If you do hold a PhD or DPT you can include those initials after your name and PT title. You can also use the title "Dr." in non-clinical settings like research or academia but never in the course of physiotherapy treatment.

Questions? Contact the Practice Advisor for clarification at 1-800-583-5885 ext. 241.

[**Read the Standard**](https://www.collegept.org/rules-and-resources/restricted-titles-credentials-and-specialty-designations-standard)

# Got a new job? Congratulations!

Remember that you have a professional obligation to let the College know within 30 days of the change. [Verify that your information is up to date on the PT Portal](https://portal.collegept.org/).

[**PT Porta**](https://portal.collegept.org/)**l**

# Register Now for a College Event Near You!

## Everything You Need to Know about the Rules

The College is travelling across the province to meet with PTs and others for coffee, sandwiches and good conversation.

Practice Advisor, Fiona Campbell, PT will cover a range of popular topics – from working with physiotherapist assistants, to consent, to privacy, to record keeping and more.

Our first stop is **Thunder Bay on Wednesday, September 18** .

We'll also be visiting **Ottawa, Windsor, London, Toronto, North York** . If you can't make it in person, don't worry – we'll be hosting a webinar later in the year.

This session promises to provide practical advice, answers to your questions on best practices. To help you avoid the same pitfalls, examples of where other people have gone wrong will be shared.

Watch your email inbox, read Perspectives e-newsletter and visit collegept.org for more details over the coming weeks. Be sure to register.

[**Register Now**](https://www.collegept.org/about/college-events)

# New Case of the Month: When a Favour Leads to a Complaint

Most physiotherapists have probably experienced this at some point in their careers –

someone asks you to just take a "quick look" at an injury that's been bugging them. Nothing too serious and it feels nice to do a favour for someone... right?



Find out what happens when a small favour, from one registered health professional to another, turns into a complaint.

[**Read the Case**](https://www.collegept.org/case-of-the-month)

**Refreshed Ethics E-Learning Module Now Available**

We've re-designed our Ethics E-Learning Module to allow for a better user experience.

The content is the same, but this is a great opportunity to run through the module again and brush up on your understanding of your ethical responsibilities.

The refreshed Ethics Module covers:

Ethics in general REACH values

An ethical decision-making tool

How to apply ethical values and the decision-making tool to determine the most appropriate action in the best interest of patients

Be sure to check it out. There are three chapters you can complete separately or all at once. The module is available in English and French.

## [Try the Module in Engl ish](https://www.collegept.org/Assets/website/elearning/E-LearningEthics/2019/content/index.html%23/)

[**Check out the Module in French**](https://www.collegept.org/Assets/website/elearning/E-LearningEthics-FR/content/index.html)

**Have Questions About Practice? We Have an FAQ for That!**

Our Practice Advice team gets a lot of questions, and we mean a lot. But did you know we have a list of these questions all in one place? It's true! Every question is in a designated category so you can read about everything from self-reporting, to social media, to advertising.

Have you ever asked yourself:

Can a Physiotherapy Resident roster for controlled acts? How can I use social media without putting patients at risk?

When is express consent needed for the release of personal health information?

Find the answers to these questions and more. Don't see your question? Call the Advisor at 1-800-583-5885 ext. 241 and we'll be sure to add your question to the list.



[**Read our FAQs**](https://www.collegept.org/members/practice-advice)

**Practice Advice Question**

*A patient has confided to me that they have been experiencing sexual abuse, but they have asked me to keep the information confidential.*

*What should I do?*

[**Get the Answer**](https://www.collegept.org/members/practice-advice)

**Myth vs Fact**

*Physiotherapists are not permitted to work at two clinics within 10 kilometers of each other.*

Is this a myth or a fact?

[**Get the Answer**](https://www.collegept.org/members/practice-advice/myth-vs.-fact)

The College would like to welcome our newly registered physiotherapists.

[**View the List**](https://www.collegept.org/rules-and-resources/perspectives-newsletter/welcome)

Comments or questions related to Perspectives?

Get in touch at [communications@collegept.org](mailto:communications@collegept.org) or 1-800-583-5885 ext. 234.

[www.collegept.org](http://www.collegept.org/)

