

Perspectives



October 2020 | www.collegept.org | info@collegept.org

Welcome to the October edition of Perspectives.

I would like to thank everyone for a smooth and successful annual renewal process. This year has presented unique challenges for all but the College is very appreciative of your ongoing commitment to providing safe, competent and ethical physiotherapy care in Ontario.

We have also released our 2019-2020 Annual Report and provided a link at the end of this newsletter. I would encourage you to check it out to learn more about the College, how we meet our mandate to protect the public and what we accomplished last year.

Stay safe,

Rod Hamilton
Registrar
College of Physiotherapists of Ontario

Be Aware: Phishing Emails Targeting Health Professionals

The College has been made aware that other professionals are receiving phishing emails that appear to come from their regulator. These emails encourage the registrant to click links that may result in the theft of personal information or the installation of malware.

College emails almost always come from cpo@collegept.org or from the direct email of an individual working at the College.

Please contact us directly at info@collegept.org or 1-800-583-5885 if you receive an email that appears to be suspicious, or that is inconsistent with our usual communications.

New Case of the Month: Photographs from the Past

There's an old saying that you can't escape your past - and that's true when it comes to investigating complaints. When the College receives a complaint about the practice of a physiotherapist, it must be fairly investigated no matter how much time has passed.

In this month's case, we explore what happens when a patient comes forward to say their PT took inappropriate photos of them years before. Don't miss *Photographs From the Past*.

Reminder: Considerations for Virtual Care

The Ministry of Health (MOH) continues to recommend that health providers use virtual care or tele-rehabilitation whenever possible to limit in-person interactions and help stop the spread of COVID-19. As a reminder, the College has guidance for virtual care on our website, based on the existing rules and standards.

Here are some considerations to keep top of mind:

- Physiotherapists must use their professional judgement to determine if tele-rehabilitation is appropriate for the patient
- The patient record must indicate if a treatment session was provided virtually
- PTs must be aware of and comply with the privacy legislation relevant to tele-rehabilitation practice, including the Personal Health Information Protection Act
- Physiotherapists must obtain informed consent from the patient for virtual care

Tips to share with patients ahead of their virtual appointments:

- Find a space with limited distractions and good lighting - it's important that you can see and hear each other clearly
- Encourage your patient to test functionality beforehand including internet connection, sound and any additional technology that is required (an app for example)
- Remind your patient that they can prepare a list of questions ahead of time and let them know that they can have a trusted family member or friend sit in on the appointment to take notes

If you have questions related to virtual practice, please call the practice advice team for support at 1-800-583-5885 (extension 241).

Virtual Practice in Physiotherapy

Check Out the NEW Top Practice Advice Questions

Be sure to check out the top practice advice questions for October and see what your peers are asking the Practice Advisors.

This month we're answering:

- What should a PT do if a patient they examined screened negative at the time of their appointment but later received a positive COVID-19 test result?
- Can a PT continue to work if their child in school screens positive for COVID-19?
- Before an in-person appointment, should a PT disclose to the patient if they work at multiple locations?
- What type of cleaning and disinfecting products should PTs be using?

Have a question? Give the advisor a call at 1-800-583-5885 (extension 241) or email

Popular Practice Advice Questions

Standard Highlight: Providing and Refusing Care

The Providing and Refusing Care Standard details the requirement to provide inclusive and accessible care. It also covers the responsibilities of a PT when discontinuing care or providing care during a public health emergency.

Here are some key highlights:

- PTs must not make decisions about providing care based on discriminatory reasons as laid out in the Ontario Human Rights Code (age, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, etc.)
- Physiotherapists must ensure that their care and facilities comply with the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act - this also extends to virtual care
- PTs must understand the nature of public health emergencies and remain informed about the relevant federal, provincial and local response plans

Read the Providing or Refusing Care Standard and review the accompanying frequently asked questions for more information.

Review the Standard

Practice Advice Question

I will be starting my own PT business, what do I need to think about and do?

[Get the Answer](#)

Myth vs Fact

A physiotherapist may treat a patient who is already seeing another physiotherapist for the same condition.

Is this a myth or a fact?

[Find Out](#)



Stay Safe: COVID-19 Information and Resources

Remember to take all necessary precautions when delivering in-person patient care.

The pandemic is an ever-evolving situation, and this is the first time PTs are working with patients in out-patient settings as the infection rate is on the rise. The College has a

comprehensive library of information and resources that physiotherapists should continue to consult on a regular basis.

If you are delivering in-person care, be sure to follow the guidance outlined in:

- [Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Operational Requirements: Health Sector Restart](#)
- [The College's Return to Work Guidance](#)

What should you do following exposure to a patient who has a positive COVID test?

The first step is to contact your [local Public Health Unit](#) to advise them of the exposure and initiate contact tracing.

The Public Health Ontario [Risk Assessment Approach for COVID-19 Contact Tracing](#) outlines the factors that your local public health unit will consider to determine next steps after your exposure to an individual who tested positive for COVID. Their decisions will be based on current infection rates and evolving evidence around COVID-19 infection and transmission.

The government is also recommending that everyone download the free [COVID Alert app](#) to help warn of possible exposures.

COVID-19 Information and Resources

Updated Directive #5 for Hospitals, Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes

The Ministry of Health (MOH) recently updated [Directive #5](#) which applies to public hospitals, long-term care homes and retirement homes.

The amendments stipulate that physiotherapists who work in these settings must be provided with a fit-tested N95 respirator or approved equivalent or better protection if:

- The PT determines such is required based on their point-of care risk assessment, professional and clinical judgement and proximity to the patient; or
- The PT working in a home/hospital with a declared COVID-19 outbreak comes in contact with a suspected, probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 in a patient/resident where two-metres distance cannot be assured.

See [Directive #5 - Questions and Answers](#) for more information.

Read the Full Update

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services: Special Needs Workforce Survey

This survey is to better understand the availability, distribution, and competencies of Ontario's workforce for clinical special needs services. The data will be used for research purposes to support planning for programs that fund and/or directly provide services to individuals with special needs.

Physiotherapists are an important segment of this workforce, and the Ministry is very interested in learning about your professional experience, interests, and needs.

[Take the Survey](#)

Check Out the 2019-2020 Annual Report

The 2019-2020 Annual Report is now available on the College website.

Learn more about the College's mandate and read more about key initiatives in the last fiscal year.

[Read the Annual Report](#)

Welcome

New Registrants

The College would like to welcome our newly registered physiotherapists.

[View the List](#)

Questions? Ask the Advisor

Free, Confidential Advice Available for the Public and
Practice Advice for Physiotherapists

Call 1-800-583-5885 ext. 241 or 416-591-3828 ext. 241
or email advice@collegept.org

Comments or questions related to Perspectives?
Get in touch at communications@collegept.org or 1-800-583-5885 ext. 234.

www.collegept.org



