

Perspectives



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Welcome to the July edition of Perspectives.

As the province continues to re-open, many physiotherapists are returning to work. That makes it a great time to review the standards of practice and make sure that you're still meeting your professional obligations.

Also, please take a couple of minutes to make sure your employment information is up to date. If there are any changes to your employment information, you are legally required to let us know within 30 days. This is the information that appears on the Public Register for patients, employers and insurers to see. [Review it now.](#)

Stay safe,

Rod Hamilton
Registrar
College of Physiotherapists of Ontario

New Case of the Month: Personal Training is NOT Physiotherapy

From time to time, physiotherapists may be presented with a job offer that's simply too good to be true.

Find out what happens when one PT starts working at a wellness clinic, owned by someone who is not a regulated health professional, that regularly bills personal training sessions as physiotherapy.

It's a strong cautionary tale and a good reminder to ask questions before you take a job!

[Read the Case](#)

Standard Highlight: Infection Control and Equipment Maintenance

With health precautions on everyone's minds these days, there's never been a better time to

highlight the Infection Control and Equipment Maintenance Standard or the numerous infection prevention and control (IPAC) resources available on our website.

Highlights from the Standard:

- PTs must maintain current knowledge of infection prevention and control measures.
- PTs must incorporate the appropriate infection prevention and control measures based on the risks of transmission.
- PTs must have a written process for routinely reviewing the maintenance and safety of the equipment they use, and be able to demonstrate that they did the review.

To help clarify your professional obligations when it comes to infection prevention, we recently partnered with other health colleges and Public Health Ontario for a webinar called *COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control for Regulated Health Professionals*.

You can watch a [recording of the webinar here](#) and access [the supporting materials here](#).

COVID-19 Infection Control Resources

Infection Control and Equipment Maintenance Standard

Written Infection Control Policies

Physiotherapists must ensure that there are appropriate written infection prevention and control protocols in their practice setting. Written policies must be easily accessible to staff and provide resources and education opportunities.

Written policies should include information about:

- Frequency of floor cleaning
- Frequency of cleaning high touch areas
- Bathroom cleaning schedule
- Laundry policies
- Which cleaning products to use on which surfaces
- Equipment cleaning schedule and maintenance log

Why are equipment maintenance records needed?

Documenting the inspection, maintenance and servicing of physiotherapy equipment provides evidence that the necessary steps were taken to ensure that equipment is safe for patient use.

A PT must ensure there is a **written** process for routinely reviewing the maintenance and safety of the equipment they use, and be able to demonstrate that they did the review.

Maintenance may be done by another trained individual, but the physiotherapist needs to be sure that the review was done and know the date that it was completed.

What You Need to Do

1. Locate your written infection control and equipment maintenance policy
2. Make sure it includes all infection prevention protocols outlined above
3. Make sure it includes guidelines for equipment inspections including: what needs to be checked, the criteria to pass a safety check and dates of inspection

Infection Control and Equipment Maintenance FAQs

What You Need to Consider When Treating Patients in Their Homes

If you are new to treating patients in their homes, and you are working independently, there are a few things to consider:

- As with all in-person visits, you must self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Perform an active screen (e.g. over the phone) with all patients according to the [Ministry of Health screening tool](#) to ensure that they are appropriate for in-person care at this time.
- Ask about other people living within the home and screen them as well, as appropriate.
- You are required to wear a surgical/procedure mask at all times of the visit.

For more details, including what to do if someone screens positive, please see the specific [guidance document for home visits](#).

Finally, be sensitive when providing care in an informal environment such as a patient's home. Please refer to the [Boundaries and Sexual Abuse Standard](#) for more information about managing professional boundaries.

COVID-19 Information: Home Care

Practice Advice Question

I identify my patient as being high-risk for complications if they acquire COVID-19, but they would benefit from in-person care at my clinic.

How do I help them understand the risks involved with in-person care?

Get the Answer

Myth vs Fact

Only the physiotherapist can screen the patient for COVID-related symptoms.

Is this a myth or a fact?

Find Out



The Facts About Face Masks

Wearing non-medical masks or face coverings can protect you and others around you, particularly if physical distancing is not possible.

- All patients and visitors are required to wear non-medical masks or face coverings unless masks are not available or they cannot tolerate it.
- Signage should be posted at the entrance to the office or clinic and at reception

areas stating the requirement to wear masks.

- Provincial requirements override any by-laws that state that masks are not required.
- Children under the age of two, individuals with a medical condition impacting their ability to tolerate a mask, or people who cannot independently put on or take off a mask are not required to wear one.

What kind of non-medical masks should patients and visitors use?

- No specific design or material is known to be better than others.
- The [Public Health Agency of Canada](#) has tips for making cloth masks.
- Each cloth mask should have at least two layers and the ability to be washed multiple times without losing shape or deteriorating.

Public Health Ontario Mask Fact Sheet

What Physiotherapists are Asking

I'm a PT working in a gym setting. I share the space with personal trainers who run small boot camps. Most of the personal training clients don't want to wear a mask and I'm concerned about the safety of patients I see.

A fitness facility is not a typical health care setting. However, the interactions between a physiotherapist and their patients remain under the direction of the Ministry of Health. As a physiotherapist, read and apply the [Health Sector Restart](#) document.

It includes putting masks on yourself and your patients, good hand hygiene, eye protection if deemed appropriate, and cleaning and disinfection of patient contact surfaces.

The re-opening of gyms is following a regional approach. Some rules will be stricter than others. Some gym members are exempt from wearing a mask, while other gyms exercise their right to make masks mandatory.

It is vital to continue to follow social distancing rules. You may also consider modifying your schedule to avoid any patients who are at risk for complications from COVID-19 to attend at a busy time. Be sure to work with the gym manager to ensure that all public health measures (gym staff masking, member screening, disinfection protocols, social distancing) are followed to ensure the safest possible experience for your patients.

Check your [local public health unit](#) for updates, or if you have COVID-19 related questions, call the Ministry of Health's health care providers hotline at 1-866-212-2272.

Can I bill for missed appointments?

Yes, a physiotherapist can bill a patient for missed or cancelled appointments as long as the patient was given information about the policy beforehand and they understood the policy.

Remember, the written fee schedule must include information about charges for missed or cancelled appointments.

The fees must not be excessive and the PT should use their judgement when implementing

fees for missed or cancelled appointments. For example, if a patient suddenly becomes sick, it is likely in everyone's best interest for them to stay home without a penalty of a missed appointment charge.

Find more answers to Frequently Asked Questions from physiotherapists, patients, employers and more on our website.

[All FAQs](#)

Don't Forget: the Annual Renewal Deadline is September 30

Just over two months left to renew! A friendly reminder that all physiotherapists who have yet to renew that the deadline is September 30, 2020.

We will be sending those PTs who have not yet renewed this year a reminder by email in August.

[Renew Now](#)

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.

