



# POLICY & PROCEDURE

Registration  
Number 3.10

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## TOPIC: PRACTICE HOURS

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### PREAMBLE:

In order to practice physiotherapy in Manitoba, a physiotherapist must be registered on the Active practice Register. *The Physiotherapists Act* requires that members who wish to maintain their registration on, or transfer to, the Active Practice Register, show evidence of a minimum of 1200 hours of physiotherapy practice hours in the five years preceding the year for which the person seeks Active Practice registration.

Members who are renewing their annual Active Practice Registration are required to provide CPM with their practice hours for the past year. New members or those changing Registers are asked to provide evidence of practice hours from their past employers.

The practice hour requirement is one tool used by the College to assure a member's currency within the profession and to assure the public that members are competent to practice. Other tools, such as the Continuing Competency Program, professional portfolio and Practice Audit Program are other means used by CPM to assure the competence of the physiotherapist.

A practice hour requirement is used by all provincial physiotherapy regulators and is consistent across the country. Each regulator has signed a Mutual Recognition Agreement which states that 1200 hours of physiotherapy practice over the preceding five years, is a registration and renewal requirement for each province.

The physiotherapy profession has been expanding in recent years and an increasing number of members are becoming employed in positions that are not traditional or clinical physiotherapy jobs. Some of these positions require the knowledge, skills, and abilities (competencies) of a physiotherapist but the job title may not be "physiotherapist or physical therapist". As an example, physiotherapists may use similar or related competencies in the role of case manager, and administrator of other than a physiotherapy department. Physiotherapists may be undertaking research or developing new products.

The College has developed a set of principals and criteria in order to balance its mandate to assure the competence of its members and to accommodate the expansion of the profession.

**PRINCIPLES:**

1. The College recognizes that the scope of physiotherapy practice can be described as assessment and treatment of the body by physical or mechanical means for the purpose of restoring, maintaining or promoting physical function, mobility or health or to relieve pain. The practice of physiotherapy may encompass clinical areas of practice, education, administration, health promotion and research.
2. Physiotherapy may encompass paid or unpaid work and both can be included in the practice hour count. Unpaid work hours must be verifiable by someone in a senior position to the physiotherapist.
3. A job position which uses the title “physiotherapist” and or “physical therapist” is an acceptable position for counting practice hours.
4. A job position which does not use the “physiotherapist/physical therapist” job title but which advertises the position as requiring a physiotherapy education or credential (and possibly other titles such as Occupational Therapist or Social Worker), is also acceptable for counting practice hours.
5. A job posting that requires the knowledge skills, abilities and attitudes of a physiotherapist is also acceptable for accruing practice hours. However, it will be incumbent upon the physiotherapist to provide written evidence that the position meets the criteria or principles for determining whether the job position is within the physiotherapy scope of practice.
6. There is an expectation found in the Code of Ethics that physiotherapists will practice only in the areas of their competence, that they will maintain their competence in the area they practice in and that it is a professional responsibility to undertake continuing education to maintain or improve their skills.
7. Physiotherapy practice hours may be transferred from another province/country to Manitoba but must be verified from former employer (s). Self reported hours will not be accepted.
8. Practice hours cannot be accrued on a non practicing register, such as the Inactive Register.

**CRITERIA and PROCEDURE:**

1. In a situation where there is a question about whether a person’s job position falls within the scope of physiotherapy practice and can be used toward the accumulation of practice hours, the person will be asked to provide written evidence to the Board of Assessors outlining the job description and presenting a case for inclusion of practice hours.
2. The Board of Assessors may also accept as evidence, a professional portfolio which provides clarification of work responsibilities, work/practice hours and educational activities.

3. Continuing education hours may be used to accumulate practice hours. Home reading and self study are expected behaviors and are not verifiable so will not be used in accumulating practice hours. The Board reserves the right to place limitations on the number of continuing education or other hours accrued toward the practice hour requirement.
4. The College will keep a record of registrants self reported practice hours. In situations where the practice hours are low or do not meet the basic minimum of 1200 hours, the Board of Assessors will notify the physiotherapist in writing.
5. The Board of Assessors will use its discretion in a fair way when accepting or disallowing practice hours. It is the responsibility of registrants to keep a record of practice hours.

Legislative Reference:

Regulations:     4 (1) (g)  
                      6 (1) (b) ii  
                      12 (c)  
                      14 (1) (b)