



Manitoba Physiotherapy - In Touch

College of Physiotherapists of Manitoba Newsletter

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Note from the Editor

Submitted by Ricky Paggao, Vice Chair and Newsletter Editor
Greetings!

Welcome to the Fall edition of the CPM newsletter. We are revamping our newsletter format to increase frequency of distribution. In the past, the newsletter was published 3-4 times a year and used a lot of paper. We are hoping to maximize readership by highlighting current CPM activities without overwhelming the membership with too much information.

The Council would like to extend a warm welcome to our new student representatives, Lisa Bartley and Carly Taylor. There is currently a vacancy on Council. If you are interested in becoming a Council member, contact Sean Gupta, chair of the Nominating & Public Recruitment Committee at: chairpersons@manitobaphysio.com

Be sure to stay *In Touch* with the College of Physiotherapists of Manitoba, and visit our web site regularly at <http://www.manitobaphysio.com>. I encourage you to access the H1N1 links to learn how you can protect yourself, your coworkers, and the public from this potential pandemic.

If you have any suggestions, comments, or are interested in submitting an article to the newsletter, please email your inquiries to info@manitobaphysio.com

Congratulations to: Gisèle Pereira

Submitted by Brenda McKechnie, Registrar/Executive Director

Gisèle was selected by the Lung Association (National) to receive the Canadian Lung Association's 2009 Founders Award. This award is presented to honor individuals who have devoted themselves to the affairs of the Lung Association and to the cause of respiratory health.

The award recognizes exemplary innovation or commitment towards lung health. Gisèle received the award on Saturday April 25, 2009 at the Canadian Lung Association's Dinner and Awards evening in Toronto.

Volunteer Opportunity

Submitted by Brenda McKechnie, Registrar/Executive Director

Here's an opportunity of a lifetime: volunteer as a physiotherapist at Siloam Mission at the Saul Sair Health Centre. Physiotherapy services are relatively new to Siloam Mission, having started in 2008. Since the spring of 2009, a physiotherapist has been providing service once a week. However, this position will become vacant in the month of November.

The patrons of Siloam Mission are an at risk population for multiple impairments

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and at the same time are the least serviced in the public/private health system. Physiotherapists can play a critical, preventative role to this population. Saul Sair Health Centre is a team oriented facility where nurse, doctor, dentist, chiropractor and coordinators work seamlessly with the patrons to deliver the best care possible. Services are provided Monday through Friday mornings and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Contact the director, Kari Enns at 943-0658 for more details on volunteering. Donations of physiotherapy equipment such as tape, ice packs, TENS, NMES units etc. would also be appreciated. For more information about Siloam Mission, check their web site at <http://www.siloam.ca>

Is Coverage Through an Employer Sufficient?

Submitted by Brenda McKechnie, Registrar/Executive Director
(Reprinted in part from CPA Newsletter)

A common misconception amongst physiotherapists employed in many public practice settings is that the professional liability insurance held by their employer is sufficient to cover their practice, and that they do not need to purchase additional liability coverage through a plan such as that offered through the Canadian Physiotherapy Association. It is true that employer insurance policies are required to cover malpractice insurance claims related to an employee's actions within the scope of their employment. However, physiotherapists should be aware of the potential limitations on coverage provided by employers, and of the many scenarios in which the employer policy will not apply.

Limitations on coverage through an employer

There are several scenarios in which your employer's insurance might apply, but there might be varying degrees of limitations on the coverage. For example,

- Are the individual and aggregate limits on the insurance coverage sufficient, and comparable to those offered through other plans?
- If you were named a defendant, would you be assigned your own legal counsel?
- Would you be covered for legal representation if you were charged with a criminal act such as assault?
- Would the policy cover your actions if your employer decided they could not support your actions at the time of the incident?
- Would the policy cover legal representation for a proceeding before a regulatory College for a complaint or disciplinary hearing?

In these situations, individuals without supplementary insurance would need to independently make up for these shortfalls.

In addition to compensating for limitations on employer coverage, additional coverage protects you in scenarios in which coverage through an employer would not apply at all. This includes, for example:

- Volunteer work done outside the employment setting (e.g. teaching a course, participating in educational physiotherapy demonstrations)
- Paid work conducted outside of your normal employment (e.g. part time private clients) or
- Providing professional advice outside of the employment setting.

Professional malpractice insurance plans are available to CPA members. As

well, malpractice insurance can be purchased through other insurance carriers. All malpractice insurance plans are not the same so you are advised to check out the benefits of each plan prior to your purchase decision.

The Regulated Health Professions Legislation

Submitted by Brenda McKechnie, Registrar/Executive Director

The new *Regulated Health Professions Act* was passed by the Manitoba Legislature in the spring of 2009. While the legislation has passed, it will not become effective for the profession until the Regulations and By-Laws are developed. Some professions may take longer to develop new Regulations and By-laws than other professions. Since the current legislation for physiotherapy is still relatively new (2000), and the changes required to be compliant with the RHPA are less challenging than for some professions which have not updated their legislation for many years, CPM will be in a good position to be one of the first professions to adopt the new legislation.

However, there are some changes that will require a significant change to our current legislation. The Legislative Committee of CPM is busy working on these changes. One of the first tasks of the committee will be to look at the Reserved Acts contained in the new legislation. These are practices which are deemed to have a high risk factor associated with the practice. The intention is to take these Reserved Acts out of the public domain and to assign them to professions which can prove to the government that their members have the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes to provide these practices in a safe and effective way.

Manitoba Health has also informed the College that in order to enact the new legislation, the College will need to have its continuing competency program up and running. The College's draft program is being reviewed by the Continuing Competency Committee. An environmental scan is being conducted to determine whether the program which was initially established by the College is still viable, given changes in the continuing competency environment.

Another major change will be the ability to establish professional corporations. CPM has been informed by Manitoba Health that we will need to establish similar provisions that are in place for physicians and other health professions that allow incorporation of professional practice.

The *Regulated Health Professions Act* can be found at the following web site:
<http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/2009/c01509e.php>

The Fair Registration Practices Act

Submitted by Brenda McKechnie, Registrar/Executive Director

This is a new piece of legislation which was passed by the government in November 2007. The legislation affects every self regulated profession, not just health professions. The legislation allows the government to appoint a Fairness Commissioner who over sees this legislation. Ontario was the first province to adopt this legislation, followed by Manitoba and Nova Scotia. The Government has appointed Ms Ximena Munoz as the Fairness Commissioner. She has called a number of meetings with the self regulated professions since being appointed to this position last year. Currently, the Office

of the Fairness Commissioner has developed and will be pilot testing an evaluation tool. The tool looks at a number of registration related items including how information about registration is disseminated, what tools are used to credential and determine an applicant's competency to practice a profession, what assistance is provided to applicants seeking registration and employment etc. Three professions will be pilot tested in the near future. The evaluation process is expected to take eight weeks within a three month period of time.

Following the evaluation of each profession, the Fairness Commissioner will make recommendations to each College with respect to their registration processes and what improvements can be made. The Fairness Commission will issue a report to the Minister of Labour and Immigration.

Alternative and Complementary Practice

Submitted by Brenda McKechnie, Registrar/Executive Director

Acknowledging that alternative and complementary practices are being adopted by a number of physiotherapists within their scope of physiotherapy practice, the College has drafted a position statement which has been approved by Council. Prior to finalizing the draft, however, the Council would like to get feedback from physiotherapists who incorporate alternative and complementary techniques into their practice.

Basically, the position statement does not prohibit physiotherapists from practicing complementary or alternative techniques in their practice. Rather, the position statement provides guidance on how these treatment methods should be incorporated into their physiotherapy practice. The expectation is that the physiotherapist would conduct a physiotherapy assessment, evaluate the findings and determine a physiotherapy diagnosis. This would be followed by determining a physiotherapy treatment program in discussion with the client/ patient. When the physiotherapist would like to suggest that a complementary or alternative technique might work for the client, it should be noted to the patient that this technique may not be considered traditional physiotherapy and may not even be covered by the client's third party payor.

Please contact the CPM office to receive a copy of the position statement and a brief evaluation form to fill out.

Acupuncture

Submitted by Brenda McKechnie, Registrar/Executive Director

The Council is interested in establishing an Ad Hoc Acupuncture Committee. The purpose of the Committee would be to identify the competencies required to practice acupuncture. The College of Physical Therapists of Alberta has designed a document which addresses competencies required to practice acupuncture as a physiotherapist which will serve as a good resource for the committee. This will be an important task as we move to Reserved Acts. In order to be granted the Reserved Acts of using needles below the dermis, it will be incumbent upon the College to provide evidence to the government that physiotherapists have the necessary competencies to practice in this area.

Anyone interested in participating on this committee is encouraged to contact the Registrar as soon as possible.

Practice Statements

Submitted by Brenda McKechnie, Registrar/Executive Director

The College has produced Practice Statements which are usually developed by a group of your peers and approved by Council about a variety of topics. The expectation is that these practice statements form the standards of practice for the profession and members are expected to comply. These documents are not optional guidelines. Failure to comply can result in action taken against a member. The practice statements can be found in the blue Members Reference Guide which is provided to every member. As well, all of the practice statements can be found at the CPM web site: <http://manitobaphysio.com/index.html>

Lately, a number of requests for information about starting a physiotherapy business or clinic have been received. The practice statements contain valuable information about sending in letterhead, business cards and referral forms to the College 6-8 weeks before opening the business. The Council must approve of the name of the clinic and how the clinic is represented PRIOR to opening.

The College must also approve of the manner in which your credentials are represented on business cards and other documents. The College has a practice statement about Use of Credentials. Members are encouraged to review this particular position statement as we have observed web sites, e-mails from members, business cards and advertising etc. using abbreviations after the member's names such as: CHT, CAFCI, CATA(C), MCPA

There is also a practice statement about advertising. Essentially, advertising must be truthful, tasteful and non competitive. Usually it is the "non competitive" part that challenges members. Non competitive means that a member cannot state that they are better than another member, provide specialised services, or that they are a "specialist". The College does not recognize specialty designations at this time.

As the profession moves towards evidence informed practice, it is important to respect the scientific basis behind physiotherapy practice. Testimonials from happy clients does not enhance evidence informed practice. Testimonials have never been permitted by the College as this is seen as purely a mechanism to draw clients to a particular business based on a client's opinion. Members are advised to review the practice statement about advertising make changes as necessary.

The Practice Standards Committee has reviewed and updated the following Practice Statements:

4.2 Concurrent Care by a Physiotherapists

4.3 Informed Consent to Treatment

3.10 Practice Hours (developed by the Board of Assessors)

Please [follow the link](#) to print the revised documents. You are advised to keep your member's Reference Guide updated by removing the old policy and replace it with the new one.

Renewal 2010

Submitted by Brenda McKechnie, Registrar/Executive Director

It is almost that time of year again! CPM is getting ready for renewal 2010. Council is working on the 2010 budget and registration fees have not been finalized yet. This year, we are hoping that all members will try to renew online. CPM will not be sending out renewal forms by mail to each member this year. In November, you will receive a letter with your login credentials. A postcard reminder will also be mailed by regular mail when online renewal becomes available. A valid email address is required in order to renew online.

The consensus of opinion is that renewal is considerably easier when you renew online. When renewing online, you can pay by credit card, or send in a cheque. Interac is also available if you plan to come to the office.

For those members who do not have access to a computer, are on dial up (which can be slow) or can't renew online, **you will need to contact the CPM office in order to get the renewal papers mailed out to you.**

In the meantime, members are encouraged update their profile information online, particularly **the e-mail address. If your e-mail address has changed, it will be difficult to contact you at renewal time.** The office receives quite a number of returned newsletters because members have failed to change their e-mail address with CPM.

To login to your profile, please go to the member Area on our web site:
<https://secure.alinity.com/cpm/webclient/>

Note to Members

Changes in Profile Information

A reminder to all members: please notify CPM if you have a change in contact information, home address or employment. You can also log in to your profile at any time to update this online at: <https://secure.alinity.com/cpm/webclient/>

Registration Reminder

If you are presently on the Inactive register and planning to return to work, you must contact the CPM office in order to change your licensing status to the Active Register prior to returning to work.

CPM Council and Committees

The CPM Council and Committees currently has vacancies and needs your help.

A Council position remains vacant. Council meets on a Thursday once a month (except summertime) from 4:30 PM-8:00 PM. You can make a difference to the profession by being a Council member.

Vacancies currently exist on the Board of Assessors, Continuing Competence and Ethics Committees. These committees meet about once a month. For more information about committees, please call the registrar.