



POSITION STATEMENT

Position Statement
Number: 4.10

Approved By Council: September 12, 2002
Updated:
Replaced:
Issued:

TOPIC: COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION WITH PHYSICIANS

INTRODUCTION

Prior to proclamation of The *Physiotherapists Act* in 2002, physiotherapists were obligated to assess patients/clients in **consultation** with the patient's/client's physician and provide treatment to patients/clients in **communication** with the patient's/client's physician.

In the new legislation, there is no reference to consultation, communication or physician. In effect, physiotherapists are independent practitioners. This independence places more responsibility on the physiotherapy practitioner for ensuring that they have the necessary information on the patient's/client's medical condition and history before treating the patient/client.

COUNCIL POSITION

It is the opinion of the Council of the College of Physiotherapists of Manitoba that physiotherapy practitioners should continue to communicate and consult with physicians and other recognized health care practitioners for the purpose of informing and being kept informed of relevant information on the patient/client. This sharing of information and knowledge is critical to the provision of quality care for the patient/client.

In situations where the physiotherapist does not have access to a recognized health care provider for information on the patient/client, the physiotherapist is cautioned to exercise extreme care when assessing or treating the patient/client.

Examples of this situation are:

1. when the patient/client does not have a physician for their ongoing care
2. when the patient/client chooses to use an alternative practitioner (homeopath, chiropractor etc.) instead of a medical practitioner for their ongoing care.

A Position Statement is a formal position of the College with which members shall comply.