

4.23 Use of Title and Credentials

Purpose:

Public interest is protected through a consistent application of use of title, title abbreviations and credentials. *The Physiotherapists Act* of Manitoba stipulates that no persons other than a registrant of the College of Physiotherapists of Manitoba may use the titles “physical therapist”, “physiotherapist” or “physiothérapeute” and abbreviations “PT” and “pht”.

The underlying intent of the legislation is to protect the public by ensuring that only properly qualified physiotherapists use the title. The public has a right to know who the physiotherapists treating them are, and what his or her qualifications are. The purpose of this document is to provide registrants, their employers and other health care partners and stakeholders with guidelines to ensure the use of title, title abbreviation and credentials serves the public interest, meets professional obligations and legal requirements.

Definitions:

Title: refers to the words “physiotherapist”, “physical therapist” and “physiothérapeute” as defined and described in *The Physiotherapists Act*.

Credentials: refers to those words or abbreviations that indicate an educational qualification, certification, or specific competency which are used by a physiotherapist in their formal or informal written or verbal communications related to the provision of patient care services.

Title abbreviation: or the abbreviation for the title words, functions as the professional designation.

Policy:

1. Title

Use of the title words “physiotherapist”, “physical therapist” and “physiothérapeute” is limited to registrants of the College of Physiotherapists of Manitoba who have met the educational qualifications or other measures of competence and are therefore registered with the College of Physiotherapists of Manitoba.

There are two acceptable abbreviations for the title words: PT is the acceptable English abbreviation and pht is the acceptable French abbreviation. Documents or records signed in the capacity or role of a physiotherapist (e.g. charts, reports, bills) must include either the full professional title or an approved

abbreviation. The terms “physio” or “therapist” are colloquial terms and are not acceptable abbreviations of the title words.

Title options are applicable for use with *human clients*. Individuals who practice in the animal rehabilitation field should not use the title or practice words physiotherapy.

Physiotherapists must not use the title “specialist” or any other similar designation suggesting a recognized special status, special levels of competence or accreditation.

Physiotherapists who hold a doctorate degree cannot use the title of “doctor” or an abbreviation of the title “Dr.” preceding their professional name if they are providing patient care services using the title and scope of practice of a physiotherapist/physical therapist.

PHYSIOTHERAPY STUDENTS

Students enrolled in an accredited physiotherapy educational program must use the title “Student physiotherapist”, “Physiotherapy student”, or Physical Therapy Student.

The student will use this title only during activities directly related to and approved by the university program. Students may not use the title in alternative situations such as volunteer role or a job, even if it is in the same organization. Once a student has graduated he/she is no longer a student and must not use the student title.

NEW GRADUATES ON THE EXAMINATION CANDIDATE REGISTER

Graduation from an accredited Canadian entry-level physiotherapy program does not necessarily permit one to register as a physiotherapist. Graduates must be registered with the College of Physiotherapists of Manitoba *before* using the title Physiotherapist, Physical Therapist.

To register as an Exam Candidate, one must:

- Be eligible for convocation or have already convocated,
- Have successfully completed Part 1 of the PCE,
- Be registered for the next available sitting of Part 2 of the PCE, and
- Meet all other registration requirements

Prior to successfully completing Part 2 of the PCE, new graduates registered with the College are instructed to use the credential: PT Examination Candidate (or PT Exam Cand.) after their name.

Jill Smith, PT Examination Candidate, MPT, BSc

Dual Health Care Practices

Some physiotherapists are trained in and practice other regulated or unregulated health disciplines. In these circumstances there is potential for patients, insurers and others to be misled about the capacity in which the professional is acting.

Physiotherapists who practice more than one discipline must keep their roles, titles, credentials, documentation and billing practices separate and distinct.

Multidisciplinary Practice

Records of physiotherapy care must be easily identifiable as physiotherapy records, even when they are part of a multidisciplinary patient file.

2. Credentials

The College of Physiotherapists of Manitoba acknowledges and supports the development of advanced or focused competence and the additional education and qualifications, while not inferring that those physiotherapists without such education or qualifications are not competent to also provide such care.

While advanced and enhanced competency is encouraged, physiotherapists' use of an abbreviated credential is limited to those credentials that meet the following criteria:

- Denote educational standards from a university which are commonly understood by the public (e.g. BPT, BMR PT, MPT), and
- Denote credentials with educational standards that are consistent and verifiable.

Acceptable credentials include:

- Name of the academic diploma or degree(s) earned at a university to allow the practice as a physiotherapist, as the title appears on the certificate.
- Acceptable abbreviation of the title of the diploma or degree(s)
- Master's and Doctorate degrees from an accredited Canadian university, or deemed equivalent to those degrees.

Some examples include:

- Dip PT- Diploma of Physical Therapy
- MPT- entry level to practice Masters of Physical Therapy (e.g. U of M)
- DPT- entry level to practice Doctorate in Physical Therapy (e.g. received from Universities in the United States)

Therefore, only credentials or their abbreviations approved by the College in the form or format consistent with this policy may be used. Please see the examples below:

Physiotherapists Name <i>First in sequence</i>	Title or Title abbreviation <i>Second in sequence</i>	Degree/diploma related to title <i>Third in sequence Or from highest to lowest</i>	Other acceptable degrees/diplomas Credentials <i>Fourth in sequence Or from highest to lowest</i>
Jean Martin	Physiotherapist	MPT	BKin
Jean Martin	Physiotherapist	BMR PT	MClSc
J. Martin	Physiothérapeute	BPT	BSc
Jean M.	Physical Therapist	BSc (PT)	MSc, PhD (Candidate)

Programs that do not grant a university degree must be written in full. This includes, but is not limited to, the following examples:

<i>Non-Acceptable Format</i>	<i>Acceptable Format</i>
CAFCI	Certified by Acupuncture Foundation of Canada
FCAMPT	Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Manipulative Physiotherapy
CHT	Certified Hand Therapist
CRE	Certified Respiratory Educator
CDE	Certified Diabetes Educator

Use of Membership in Associations or Special Interest Group

Membership in a body is not a recognizable qualification and does not meet the definition of a “credential”. Therefore, it is not permissible to use membership as a credential.

The following list, and similar other memberships, are not considered credentials by this policy and as such should not be used by physiotherapists in their formal or informal written or verbal communications related to the provision of patient care services.

<i>Non-Acceptable Format</i>	<i>Acceptable Format</i>
MCPA	Member of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association
MCSP	Member of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists (British Association)
SPD	Member of the Sports Physiotherapy Division