



ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF
PHYSIOTHERAPISTS OF MANITOBA

MANDATE:

*To protect the public interest by working
to continually improve the quality of
Physiotherapy care for Manitobans*

What is the College of Physiotherapists of Manitoba?

CPM is the governing body for physiotherapists/physical therapists in the province of Manitoba. The College receives its regulatory authority from *The Physiotherapists Act of Manitoba (2001)*. The legislated mandate of the College is to carry out its activities and govern its members in a manner that and protects the public interest.

The College is governed by a Council which is composed of at least nine persons, one third of whom must be public representatives. Members of Council are elected or appointed in accordance with the by-laws.

The College has several areas of accountability. These include:

- to the members of the profession by the election of two-thirds of Council;
- to the government by the appointment of public members to Council;
- to the Minister of Health by the requirement to file an annual report
- to the Courts which have a broad right to hear appeals from the Inquiry Committee; and
- to the public through open Council meetings and disciplinary hearings.

What is the Role of the College?

First and foremost, the College of Physiotherapists of Manitoba exists to protect the public interest. This is quite different from the role of a professional association which acts to promote the interests of its members. The role, responsibilities, and powers of the regulatory body are established in legislation. The mandate of the College, to protect the public interest, is carried out by the following objectives:

- to regulate the practice of the profession and govern its members
- to regulate entry to practice requirements
- to assure quality of professional practice
- to promote continuing competence
- to set ethical standards

About *The Physiotherapists Act*

Physiotherapists in Manitoba are governed by their own separate legislation entitled *The Physiotherapists Act*. In other provinces, physiotherapists may be regulated by “umbrella” health legislation whereby a number of health professions are regulated under one act. Physiotherapists in Manitoba may also be bound by other legislation such as *The Personal Health Information Act*, *The Child and Family Services Act*, *The Workers Compensation Act*, *The Public Health Act and Regulations*, *The Safer Workplace Act* etc.

The Physiotherapists Act defines the practice of physiotherapy by setting the general boundaries of practice and also by listing some of the included practices.

The Act also protects the public from unqualified persons practicing as physiotherapists by limiting the use of the title “physical therapist” and “physiotherapist” or representing oneself as a physiotherapist. Only members of the College have the authority through the legislation to use these titles or represent themselves as physiotherapists.

The practice words “Physiotherapy, and physical therapy”, while not protected under the provincial legislation, are protected Federally through the Canadian Intellectual Properties Office as official marks. The use of the official marks has been granted to members of the College.

The Act provides the Council with the authority to manage the affairs of the College.

The Physiotherapists Act outlines the information about members which the College must make public and provides information on the requirements for registration. The legislation provides a process to deal with complaints against members as well as a disciplinary process which includes decisions and orders that can be made against a member by an Inquiry panel.

The legislation allows for Regulations, By-laws and a Code of Ethics to be established and allows the College to appoint Practice Auditors who can inspect a member’s practice of physiotherapy.

The members of the College have a duty to report other members of the College under certain circumstances that are outlined in section 64(1) of the Act. Also, employers of physiotherapists have a legislated duty to report physiotherapy employees whose employment is terminated under certain circumstances (section 65(1)).

About The Regulations

The Regulations primarily address the categories and requirements of registration. The Regulations specify the requirements to change registration status and also the requirements to renew a member’s registration. The Regulations have an attached “Schedule A” which specify the minimum Standards of Practice.

About the By-Laws

The By-laws principally concern the administration of the College. The rules outlining the setting of fees, holding meetings, election of Council members and terms of office for committees are provided. The rights, obligations and privileges of membership in the College are also contained in the By-Laws.

What is the Structure of the College?

There are three main components in the College's structure. These are the Council, Committees and Staff.

The Committees may be statutory, meaning that The *Physiotherapists Act* requires the College to establish a committee. There are 3 statutory committees: The Board of Assessors, the Complaints Committee and the Inquiry Committee. Committees may also be non-statutory. Non-statutory committees may be established by the Council, following the provisions of Article VIII of the By-laws. Examples of non-statutory committees include the Public Representative Recruitment Committee, the Nominating Committee, the Legislative Committee and the Continuing Competency Committee. These committees are usually of an on-going nature. "Ad hoc" committees may be established by the Council to deal with short term tasks assigned by the Council. For example, the Council has established an Ad Hoc Ethics Committee.

The College Registrar has statutory duties outlined in the legislation, non-statutory duties as determined by Council and is responsible for overseeing the management of the College staff and administrative functions.

What is the role of Public Members?

Public representatives are appointed by the Minister of Health and also by the Council. The Council appointments must be ratified by the membership.

Public representatives have a significant role in the activities of the College. The role of the public representative is to help increase public awareness of the self-governing body, to help identify conflicts between professional and public interest and to bring broader community perspective to College policy decision making. Public representatives are expected to regularly attend Council and/or committee meetings and participate fully in the affairs of the Council.

What Are Position Statements?

Within this Reference Guide, you will find a section on "Practice and Position Statements on Practice".

These statements are the formal position of the College on a particular topic with which the members are expected to comply. These statements have been documented by the Council or a College committee following research into the topic. Position Statements are often written to provide further clarity into a clause in the legislation, regulations, by-laws, standards of practice, or code of ethics. A "Legislative Reference" is usually included at the end of the statement to draw the reader's attention to the legislative authority granted to the College to write the statement.

What are Policy and Procedure Statements?

Policy and Procedure Statements are informative documents which first explain the position or policy of the College and then further elaborate a process or procedure involved. A Legislative Reference is included at the end of a Policy and Procedure Statement to draw the reader's attention to the section of the legislation, regulations, by-laws etc. which provides the College with the legislative authority to set policy and procedure on that topic. The procedure section of a Policy and Procedure document often outlines the steps taken by the College are the requirements set by the College on a certain topic.

Acknowledgment: Adapted from the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario Reference Guide.