

PRACTICE

Use of Title in PT Practice

Preamble

The Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists regulates the practice of physiotherapy in Nova Scotia. The Act protects the use of the title physiotherapist and the practice of physiotherapy for exclusive use by registered physiotherapists. This means that physiotherapy services are **ONLY** available through a registered physiotherapist.

Background

The College has adopted the National Core Standards of Physiotherapy Practice... Standard #20 states... ***“The physiotherapist uses their title, credentials, and other designations to clearly identify themselves to clients, other health providers, and the public.”***

With expectations that...

The physiotherapist:

- Is registered with the appropriate physiotherapy provincial/territorial regulatory organization when using the protected title.
- Identifies themselves using the protected title as outlined by the appropriate provincial/territorial regulatory organization.
- Uses other credentials accurately, in association with and following the protected title according to regulatory requirements.
- Uses the title ‘Doctor’ or ‘Dr’ and/or clinical specialist designations in accordance with regulatory requirements.
- Reports the unauthorized use of the protected title to the appropriate physiotherapy regulatory organization.

This Guideline will provide further clarity on Use of Title in Nova Scotia.

Use of Title “Physiotherapist”

- Use of title ‘physiotherapist’ is not permitted in any context in which a registrant is practicing outside the scope of practice of physiotherapy or when the individual is not a registered practitioner in NS.
- Physiotherapists who are licensed in Nova Scotia shall use the protected title of PT, Physiotherapist or Physical Therapist immediately following their name to indicate their professional designation.

Professional title must be used in all correspondence related to patient care or discharge of professional practice duties. If there are Registrant class modifiers such as Defined (D) or Resident (Resident) licenses these modifiers must be used with the professional designation as appropriate. i.e. Jane Doe PT., or Jane Doe PT(D), or Jane Doe PT(Resident) if practicing under a defined or provisional license.

- Academic degrees, diplomas, or other certificates, although permitted in association with the Member’s name, are not a professional title or designation and therefore must be written on a line below.

These are not considered part of your professional signature and may or may not be included in your correspondence or on your business cards. If you choose to include them, they are listed separately and below your name so as not to be confused with the professional title. i.e.

Jane Doe PT.

B.Ed., MSc.PT. DOMP.

4. Membership in other groups or organizations (e.g. CPA) must be written out in full. These are typically voluntary memberships and are not part of a professional title. The acronyms for these groups or organizations are often mistaken for professional credentials.

It is necessary to write out the entire title of any other organization, or professional group, you belong to so as to avoid confusion or misinterpretation by the public.

i.e. Jane Doe PT

B.Ed., MSc.PT., DOMP.

MCPA (Member of the Canadian Physiotherapy Assoc.)

FCAMP (Fellowship in Canadian Academy of Manipulative Physiotherapy)

Use of Title “Specialist”

The Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists (NSCP) has taken a national approach to the recognition of specialty certifications. The Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR) has created a national Specialty Certification Recognition Committee that will evaluate and make recommendations about the specialty certification programs appropriate for recognition by Canadian physiotherapy regulators. Nova Scotia physiotherapists can apply to the NSCP for approval to use the title “Specialist” provided that the specialty designation has been granted by a CAPR approved certification body. (e.g. the Physiotherapy Specialty Certification Board of Canada, an initiative of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association, and the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties).

The NSCP recognizes that the completion of a Doctorate of Physiotherapy (DPT) degree may build upon the clinical knowledge and skills of a physiotherapist however that does **not** certify them as Specialists.

Only Individuals who have received a specialty designation granted by an approved organization can apply to use the title “Specialist” in conjunction with their protected title physiotherapist/physical therapist /PT. They must identify their area of clinical specialty.

i.e. Jane Doe PT; Clinical Specialist (Neuroscience) or John Doe PT

Clinical Specialist (Neuroscience)

Use of Title “Doctor”

In Canada, academic degrees can only be granted by educational Institutions recognized by the provincial governments. Regulators require government recognized, and formally accredited, educational programs for licensure approval.

Within a healthcare setting, the public typically associates the title “Doctor” with those who provide medical treatment and advice. Identifying non-physician doctorates by the title

