USE OF PHONOPHORESIS and IONTOPHORESIS

Preamble
The Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists regulates the practice of physiotherapy in Nova Scotia through the administration of the Physiotherapy Act and regulations. The Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists considers the independent use of any prescribed substance by a physiotherapist to be in direct contravention of the Physiotherapy Act.

Definitions
For the purposes of this Practice Standard:

(a) **Phonophoresis** is defined as the use of therapeutic ultrasonic energy to enhance transdermal diffusion of medications such as corticosteroids suspended in a coupling agent into the subcutaneous tissues.  

(b) **Iontophoresis** is defined as the use of direct current to induce the transcutaneous movement of ions of a medication into the subcutaneous tissues.

Clinical Application
Physiotherapists practicing phonophoresis / iontophoresis must adhere to the following criteria:

(a) The patient must obtain from a physician a prescription for the particular phonophoretic or iontophoretic agent before it can be used by the physiotherapist in treatment.
(b) The phonophoretic/iontophoretic agent(s) should be clearly marked as to what they are, stored separately, and disposed of appropriately when no longer necessary for use.

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1 The terms physical therapist, physiotherapist, physiotherapy, physiothérapie, physiothérapeute, PT and pht are official marks used with permission. The terms physical therapist and physical therapy are synonyms for physiotherapist and physiotherapy respectively.