

USE OF TITLE and CREDENTIALS

Preamble

The Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists regulates the practice of physiotherapy¹ in Nova Scotia through the administration of the *Physiotherapy Act* and Regulations. The Act protects the use of the title physiotherapist for exclusive use by registered physiotherapists. The Act also protects the service title physiotherapy. This means that physiotherapy services are ONLY available through a registered physiotherapist.

The College recognizes the need for clarity on accepted terminology concerning the use of title and credentials and has adopted the practice standard as stated below in an effort to clarify this issue for both our members and the public. Title use is not permitted in any context in which a registrant is practicing outside the scope of practice of physiotherapy

Use Of Title

- **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.**

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

- **Academic degrees, diplomas, or certificates although permitted in association with the Member's name, are not a title or professional designation, and therefore shall 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 below your name so as not to be confused with the professional title. i.e.

Jane Doe PT. B.Ed., MSc.PT.

¹ The terms physical therapist, physiotherapist, physiotherapy, 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

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- **Membership in other groups or organizations (eg.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. MCPA (Member of the Canadian Physiotherapy Assoc.)

Use of Specialist Title

The Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists is taking a national approach to the process of recognizing specialty certifications. The Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators created a national Specialty Certification Recognition Committee that will evaluate and make recommendations about the specialty certification programs appropriate for recognition by Canadian regulators. Nova Scotia physiotherapists can apply to the College for approval to use the title Specialist provided that the specialty designation has been granted by an approved certification body. The College Board recognizes specialty certifications granted by the Physiotherapy Specialty Certification Board of Canada (an initiative of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association).

Individuals who have received a specialty designation granted by this organization can apply to the College to use the title specialist in conjunction with their protected title physiotherapist/physical therapist. They must identify their area of clinical specialty. i.e.

Jane Doe PT Clinical Specialist (Neurosciences)

Reference: Section 41 of Schedule'A' Regulations respecting registration of physiotherapists pursuant to Section 6 (3) [i] Chapter 22 of the Acts of Nova Scotia 1998.

ISSUED: March 2013

REPLACES: September 2003 Use of PT Title Position Statement

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