

# CROSS BORDER PRACTICE

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## PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION

The Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists issues Advisory Statements to provide guidance to members on practice issues. This Advisory will address the new Cross Border Practice requirements for physiotherapists.

### **Background**

The Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists has a Provisional Registration Category where the applicant is a visiting physiotherapist currently licensed in another province and is practicing in the Province for specific reasons. This registration is subject to terms and conditions regarding the length of time and the place in which the person may be permitted to practice, the nature of the services the person is permitted to perform, or any other conditions that the Registrar may, in his or her sole discretion, consider necessary and appropriate. (Ref. Sec 31(b)-32 of the *Registration Regs. pursuant to Sec.20 of the Physiotherapy Act S.N.S. 1998, c. 22*)

### **What is a Provisional Registration – Cross Border Practice?**

Provisional Registration – Cross Border Practice is available to physiotherapists who currently practice in another Canadian province but who wish to provide care to patients in Nova Scotia, whether through tele-rehabilitation or in person.

Members with this registration may only provide care to Nova Scotia patients with the purpose of continuing to care for those patients whose physiotherapy began with that physiotherapist in another province and who would benefit from continued and time-limited service in Nova Scotia, or where the services are not available in Nova Scotia but would benefit patients.

### **Definitions**

**Tele-rehabilitation** - the provision of physiotherapy services which involves communication with a patient who is remotely located from the primary physiotherapist providing service. It can include videoconferencing, email, apps, web-based communication or wearable technology for example. The physiotherapist may or may not be present with the patient. All the professional behaviours involved in the exchange of information are the same as if the patient is in direct face to face contact with the physiotherapist.

**Record** – all client information in any form or in any medium, whether in written, printed, photographic, electronic form or otherwise. (Ref: Personal Health Information Act for details).

**Primary Jurisdiction** - the jurisdiction where the physiotherapist resides and where the majority of their patients are physically situated.

Secondary Jurisdiction – the jurisdiction where the patients who are receiving physiotherapy services directly from the physiotherapist are physically located.

### **What do you need to know?**

You must hold a current full clinical practicing license in your home province. Once you no longer hold a current Certificate of Registration in your home province/territory you will no longer be able to deliver patient care in Nova Scotia under a Provisional Registration Certificate. You would have the option to apply for a Practicing Registration Certificate in Nova Scotia at that time.

You will need to meet the registration and ongoing professional development requirements in your home province. You must hold liability insurance to a minimum of \$5,000,000 dollars.

When providing patient care in Nova Scotia you will need to follow the statutory laws, regulations, practice standards and guidelines for physiotherapists in Nova Scotia.

Cross-border Practitioners may be subject to complaints and discipline about their conduct in both the Primary and Secondary Jurisdictions. Should a patient want to file a complaint, they will be able to decide if they wish to file their complaint in Nova Scotia or in your home province. It is possible that both jurisdictions will investigate the complaint. If this occurs the Colleges in both provinces will work together on the investigation.

### **Additional Information and Forms:**

[Guidelines for Physiotherapists – Cross Border Practice](#)

[Provisional Registration for Cross Border Practice](#)

[Patient Information – Cross Border Practice](#)

[Application Check List – Cross Border Practice](#)

[FAQ – Cross Border Practice](#)