

SCPT Practice Guideline #12

Multidisciplinary Practice

Background

Health care services are often provided to members of the public through a multidisciplinary team approach in order to maximize the potential for recovery. Members of the public should be fully informed regarding the services they receive that are physical therapy. More confusion can arise if a physical therapist has more than one role in the multidisciplinary care of a client (i.e. the physical therapist is also registered as a chiropractor, occupational therapist, etc.).

The SCPT Regulatory Bylaws govern multi-disciplinary practices as follows:

Multi-disciplinary practices

23 Where a member is providing physical therapy services in a multi-disciplinary setting, the member shall ensure that:

- (a) the client is informed of the differences in the roles of the physical therapist and that of other health care providers and of the client's right to refuse any or all parts of an assessment or treatment regardless of who is providing it; and
- (b) separate records are kept of physical therapy services provided.

The SCPT Code of Ethics provides:

17. Physical therapists shall conduct themselves in such a manner as to merit the respect of the society for the profession and its members.

Practice Guidelines

1. In order to keep physical therapy and other therapies distinct and separate to clients, physical therapists should obtain a signed client consent form for the other therapy that incorporates the understanding that the other therapy is not a form of physical therapy and therefore falls outside the jurisdiction of the College.
2. The physical therapist should ensure that his or her professional judgment and integrity are not compromised by motives of profit and should make it clear to the client which discipline is responsible for incurred costs, and whether the physical therapist has a vested interest in any products being sold (regardless of discipline).
3. The physical therapist should ensure that only physical therapy services are billed or claimed for under the title of "Physical Therapy".
4. Advertising and marketing of physical therapy services and non-physical therapy services in the same advertisement, must, in addition to complying with any bylaws relating to advertising by members, be clear with respect to which services are physical therapy and which are not.
5. If physical therapy notes are accessible to other members of the health care team, the physical therapist should ensure that the client is aware that their personal information may be utilized by other team members.