

SCPT Practice Guideline # 21 – Spinal Manipulation

Background

Section 2 of the SCPT Regulatory Bylaws defines “Specialized physical therapy procedure” to include “manipulation”. Subsection 18(1) states: *“No member shall perform a specialized physical therapy procedure unless he or she has completed an educational program described in this section and recognized by the council.”*

Section 18 (6) states: *“To be recognized by the council, a course in spinal manipulation must:*

(a) be included in a recognized educational program:

(b) be provided by a member organization and meet the standards of the International Federation of Orthopedic Manipulative Physical Therapists; or

(c) provide education to the same level as a course described in clause (a) or (b).”

Recognized Educational Programs

- Council recognizes the courses included in a recognized educational program provided by Canadian Universities as providing the education and training necessary to perform spinal manipulation as taught in those programs.
- Council recognizes education programs that meet the standards of the International Federation of Orthopedic Manipulative Physical Therapists (IFOMPT) provided by institutions in Canada and in other countries as providing the education and training necessary to perform spinal manipulative techniques in taught in those courses and programs. (please refer to www.ifompt.com for details).

Practice Guidelines

1. A physical therapist may perform spinal manipulation to the competencies for which they have been educated and trained in their recognized educational program and courses or other course recognized by council.
2. Physical therapists practicing spinal manipulation are expected to use professional judgement and act within their individual level of competence.
3. Physical therapists must practice only those manipulative techniques for which they have been trained in and must have completed any and all requirements for that course/level.