

SCPT Practice Guideline #7 Infection Control

Background

The SCPT Code of Ethics provides:

6. Physical therapists shall assume full responsibility for all care they provide.

13. Physical therapists shall recognize their responsibility to improve standards of health care.

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

19. Physical therapists shall maintain an optimum standard of practice by exercising competent professional judgment and by continually striving to improve knowledge and professional skills.

Practice Guidelines

1. Physical therapists should:
 - a) keep immunizations up to date and documented;
 - b) follow proper hand washing techniques before and after patient/client contact, which may include the use of appropriate waterless scrubs;
 - c) follow appropriate barrier/universal precautions and proper isolation techniques;
 - d) follow approved procedures for use and disposal of sharps and properly report any needle stick/sharp injury for appropriate treatment and monitoring;
 - e) ensure proper equipment decontamination;
 - f) have disposable resuscitation equipment available to minimize mouth-to-mouth contact;
 - g) handle waste management in accordance with applicable legislation and guidelines;
 - h) should follow set industrial and infection control standards in collecting, bagging, transporting, washing and drying of laundry/linen used in physical therapy practice;
 - i) follow approved procedures for clean-up of spills involving blood or body fluids;

j) provide care in the best hygienic environment possible;

k) refrain from all patient/client contact while affected by open lesions that cannot be contained or covered;

l) consult with the Medical Health Officer in the health region in relation to other situations not addressed by these guidelines.