

NOVA SCOTIA COLLEGE OF PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ISSUED: August 1997

REPLACES: New

TOPIC: **USE OF PHONOPHORESIS / IONTOPHORESIS**

The Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists considers the independent use of any prescribed substance by a physiotherapist to be in direct contravention of the Physiotherapy Act.

For the purpose of this statement: **Phonophoresis** is defined as the use of ultrasonic energy to drive an active substance such as corticosteroids suspended in a coupling agent into the subcutaneous tissues. Iontophoresis is defined as the use of a direct/galvanic type current to transfer ions of an active substance into the subcutaneous tissues.

Physiotherapists practicing phonophoresis / iontophoresis must adhere to certain criteria.

CRITERIA:

1. Always obtain physician referral before initiating a treatment by phonophoresis or iontophoresis.
2. If the treatment is to be given as a "standing order" treatment then the physician involved must write an initial order for the treatment and sign the order.
3. If a physician has given verbal permission for treatment then a therapist may record this and proceed with the treatment but should request a written order to be added to the patient's chart for documentation purposes.

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