

Who Are We?

An Introduction to the N.S. College of Physiotherapists

VISION

Members of the Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists act to fully ensure public protection in the provision of quality physiotherapy practice

MISSION

The interests of the public are upheld through the regulation and promotion of safe and effective physiotherapy services and effective communication.

VALUES

The NSCP operates with values of being:

Professional	Collaborative
Respectful	Accountable
Transparent	Equitable
Responsive	Proactive

Only physiotherapists practice physiotherapy.

In Nova Scotia, an individual must be a licensed and registered member of the College of Physiotherapists (NSCP), in order to say that they are practicing physiotherapy, or call him/herself a physiotherapist. Each member has a membership card and Certificate of Licensure so if you are in doubt about a practitioner please ask to see his or her credentials.

In order to practice physiotherapy in Nova Scotia, a physiotherapist must be licensed and registered with the College (NSCP). The NSCP Board regulates the practice of physiotherapy to ensure that the public receives quality care from competent professionals. We have been holding our members accountable for ethical, and professional conduct and quality physiotherapy practice and since 1958.

Information in this brochure is provided as a general information resource tool. For more details, contact the College office.

Refer to the Physiotherapy Act 1998. c.22.

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Approved June 2009



What is the College of Physiotherapists¹?

The Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists (NSCP) is the body of licensed physiotherapists in the province of Nova Scotia. Granted the privilege of self-regulation by the provincial government in 1958, the NSCP has been self-regulating in the public interest since 1958.

Refer to the Physiotherapy Act 1998, c.22.

The members of the Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists elect a Board of Directors to conduct the College business on their behalf and to govern the membership. Government appoints two public representatives to this Board.

The NSCP Board develops, plans, implements, enforces and evaluates policies, and programs that promote safe, and effective physiotherapy services in the public interest.

What does the College do?

The NSCP Board, on behalf of its members, regulates the practice of physiotherapy to ensure that the public receives quality care from competent professionals. This means they:

- protect and serve the needs of the public within the physiotherapy practice environment

- ensure that policies and standards are in place and being met, and that they are relevant and grounded in principles of safe, quality service provision.
- ensure competency of members to enable competent service provision to the public.
- develop and enforce ethical and professional conduct standards to ensure respect and accountability.
- evolve in response to changes in the healthcare and regulatory environments
- ensure that registration and discipline processes are regulated, publicized, fair and easily understood.

The Board meets regularly to conduct the College business and holds at least one general membership meeting per year.

What is a Physiotherapist?

Physiotherapists are primary care health professionals (you can see a physiotherapist without seeing a doctor first). They are the 5th largest group of health professionals in Canada. Physiotherapists practice along the health continuum, from wellness and injury prevention, to acute care, to rehabilitation, long-term care or palliative care across the lifespan. They work with all ages and of clients. Physiotherapists focus on:

- improving, restoring, and maintaining the client's functional independence and physical performance;
- educating patients, clients and others

to promote health, wellness, fitness and self-management; and

- preventing and managing physical impairments/injuries, activity or functional restrictions and limits to participation.

Physiotherapists act with integrity and accountability, exercising sound judgment in the best interests of the client. Physiotherapists develop individualized treatment plans based on reasoned and evidenced-based practice. Each client receives a thorough evaluation, including assessment, analyses, physiotherapy diagnosis, education and treatment intervention based on desired goals, ongoing reassessment, and outcome evaluation.

What if I have a complaint?

If you have a complaint, either call the Registrar of the College to discuss the matter or, send a letter outlining your concerns to the College office. You must file a complaint in writing in order for the Investigation and Discipline process to proceed. The College has published a brochure titled "Complaints Investigation: A Complaint's Guide" to provide the public with an outline of how complaints are processed by the NSCP. Complaints can be initiated by the public, other health care professionals, other physiotherapists, or by the Registrar of the College.

¹ Physiotherapy, physiotherapist, physical therapy, physical therapist, physiothérapeute, physiothérape, PT, and pht are official marks used with permission.