

## How can potential employers assist IEPTs?

- Due to privacy policies, The Alliance is unable to disclose any information about a past, present or potential credentialing applicant. If you wish to communicate with The Alliance about an applicant's file or on behalf of an applicant, the applicant must first complete an Authorization Letter which can be downloaded from our website at [http://www.alliancept.org/pdfs/credentialing\\_resources\\_authorization.pdf](http://www.alliancept.org/pdfs/credentialing_resources_authorization.pdf).
- The Alliance has agreements with some physiotherapy programs from which multiple credentialing applications are received. For example, some universities may send documents to our office electronically in order to facilitate the IEPT's application process. Please contact The Alliance to determine if there is a current agreement with an IEPT's physiotherapy program.
- Be familiar with the credentialing process - visit our website at [www.alliancept.org](http://www.alliancept.org). Read our Educational Credentials & Qualifications Assessment FAQs at [http://www.alliancept.org/pdfs/credentialing\\_faqs\\_complete.pdf](http://www.alliancept.org/pdfs/credentialing_faqs_complete.pdf), for answers to many questions about the credentialing process.
- It is important to understand that The Alliance strongly encourages applicants **to avoid taking action** (e.g. accepting employment, moving, etc.) in anticipation of a positive credentialing result or a result within a specific time period.

## Do you have other questions or need advice?

Our Credentialing staff is available to answer questions on a wide range of topics and issues related to the Credentialing program, as well as to provide assistance in interpreting The Alliance credentialing guidelines and standards.

For **general credentialing inquiries** please contact our Client Services Coordinator at 416-234-8800 ext. 30 during regular office hours (8:30 to 4:30 Eastern Standard Time) Monday through Friday or email [csc@alliancept.org](mailto:csc@alliancept.org).

For **specific inquiries** about the status of a file, clarification of assessment results or Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR) program questions, our Credentialing Officers are pleased to help. For last names beginning with A to K call ext. 26, and L to Z call ext. 25.

To contact the Director of Credentialing regarding credentialing decisions, for feedback on the credentialing program or to make a complaint, call ext. 32 or email [teftekari@alliancept.org](mailto:teftekari@alliancept.org).

### Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators

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# Credentialing

(assessment of educational  
credentials and qualifications)

## Facts for Employers



Canadian Alliance of  
Physiotherapy Regulators

## Who must be credentialed?

Individuals educated outside Canada who wish to practice physiotherapy in any province or territory (except Quebec) must have their educational credentials and qualifications assessed by The Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (The Alliance) in order to be eligible to take the Physiotherapy Competency Exam (PCE). **There are no exceptions to this requirement.**

## What is credentialing?

The credentialing process determines if the education and qualifications of an internationally educated physiotherapist (IEPT) are substantially equivalent to those of a Canadian educated physiotherapist. The requirements are based on the academic and clinical practice components of accredited Canadian physiotherapy programs.

**Substantially equivalent** is the term used to describe the educational credentials and qualifications of an IEPT which are highly similar to those of a Canadian educated physiotherapist.

## What documentation is required?

Credentialing applicants must provide **authentic documentation** to support their:

- level of education (university level) at a recognized educational institution
- general, professional and clinical education. If the applicant's physiotherapy credential is a graduate entry level program [e.g. an entry level Master's degree in physiotherapy], the prior studies are also evaluated as being part of the studies leading to the physiotherapy qualifications.
- knowledge of the context of physiotherapy practice in Canada
- eligibility for membership or registration as a physiotherapist in the country of education
- language proficiency in French or English

## How long does it take to complete credentialing?

Credentialing assessments can take anywhere from 4 to 22 weeks **from the time that all of the required documents detailed in the application package are received.** If an applicant's program of education is new to the equivalency review process, detailed research is required which will require extra time. These files are referred to as non-precedent files.

Approximately 350 applications were processed in 2007. It took an average of 9 weeks to complete precedent files – the published standard is 12 – 14 weeks. It took an average of 21 weeks to complete non-precedent files – the published standard is 20 – 22 weeks.

## What are the outcomes of the credentialing process?

The possible **outcomes** of the credentialing assessment include determination of:

- substantial equivalence – applicants are eligible for the exam – this is valid for 2 years
- minor gaps in credentials – applicants are eligible for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) – they have 2 years to fulfill requirements
- major gaps in credentials – applicants are referred to Canadian Physiotherapy programs