



CAPR
Canadian Alliance
of Physiotherapy
Regulators

ACORP
Alliance canadienne des
organismes de réglementation
de la physiothérapie

CAPR VALUES STATEMENT REGARDING THE ROLE OF PTAs/PRTs IN THE DELIVERY OF PHYSIOTHERAPY CARE

PREAMBLE:

The Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR) is a federation of eleven provincial/territorial regulators of physiotherapists committed to the advancement of regulatory standards for safe, high-quality care. Acting together in the public interest, the 11 Regulators of the CAPR seek to promote consistency and collaboration in regulatory practice across Canada.

Physiotherapist Assistants (PTAs) and Physical Rehabilitation Therapists (PRTs)¹ work alongside physiotherapists delivering physiotherapy services to those who need them.

This statement is the CAPR member regulators' support position on joint physiotherapist-PTA practice.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- **Inter-disciplinary care:** Physiotherapists and physiotherapist/rehabilitation assistants (PTAs/PRTs) are integral members of collaborative inter-professional care teams committed to safe and high-quality care for Canadians;
- **Regulatory autonomy:** CAPR and its member regulators support the principles of professional autonomy and accountability and mutual respect among regulated and non-regulated members of a health care team;
- **Public interest:** While PTAs are currently regulated health professionals only in the province of Quebec, *interactions* between PTAs and physiotherapists in the joint delivery of patient care are regulated through Physiotherapy Regulatory Colleges that work in the public interest. Additional public protection and quality assurance of the care delivered by PTAs is provided through the accreditation of an increasing number of PTA-OTA training programs that support PTA training to a high standard of quality and effectiveness.
- **Efficiency and cost-effectiveness:** health care should be provided by the right care provider for each situation in a way that maximizes the cost-effective use of limited health care resources;
- **Timely access to care:** Patients and their families in Canada have the right to access health care in a timely manner. Timely access is facilitated by the appropriate delivery of care by a variety of appropriately-trained health professionals;
- **Evidence:** CAPR and its member regulators recognize the importance of data and evidence in informing practice decisions and the design of health care delivery models;
- **Informed consent:** Appropriate safe, high quality care can be provided in a variety ways and by a variety of care providers – individually or in tandem – but must include an informed discussion

¹ In Quebec



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with the patient and subsequent informed consent about the care arrangements being made for their individual circumstances.

- **Innovation:** Innovation in models of care delivery is essential in an era of scarce resources.

VALUES STATEMENT:

Committed to team-based care and the appropriate use of health human resources in a way that optimizes access and quality care for patients, CAPR and the Canadian Physiotherapy Regulators recognize and value the partnership between physiotherapists and physiotherapist/rehabilitation assistants and support the inclusion of multiple types of providers as essential to the provision of comprehensive health care to patients.

We recognize that PTs and PTAs/PRTs, working together in the best interest of patients, can and do benefit patients, their families and the health system as a whole by increasing accessibility, supporting diversity of care providers and practice settings, and enhancing access to care that supports the health needs of a diverse and constantly changing Canadian population. Further, as physiotherapy regulators, we support the inclusion of PTAs/PRTs as an integral part of physiotherapy services notwithstanding their regulatory status in any given jurisdiction. We firmly believe that the inclusion of PTAs/PRTs in physiotherapy services delivery serves the best interest of the Canadian public.

Date: September 2017

References:

NPAG Essential Competency Profile for Physiotherapy Assistants in Canada

CPA Position Statement Inter-Professional Collaboration and Practice

Regulatory College statements regarding supervision or the relationship between Physiotherapists and Physiotherapist Assistant