

Specialty Designations

Introduction

The College recognizes that many people registered with the College (registrants) have invested considerable time and resources to improve their knowledge and skills in areas of physiotherapy practice. The development of additional knowledge within the practice of physiotherapy is of benefit to both the public and the profession as a whole.

The College is also aware that being able to provide information on additional knowledge that a registrant has is useful to both the public and the profession when such services are being sought out. However, the utility of offering this information must be balanced by the need to ensure that the public is not inadvertently led to the conclusion that a registrant's additional training is the same as a formal specialist certification that would permit the registrant to call him or herself a specialist.

For the purpose of this position statement, and based on its review of issues relating to specialization, the College recognizes a "specialist" to be a registrant who possesses a specialist certification in a defined area of physiotherapy practice.

Registrants should note that physiotherapist specialist certification programs are different from other kinds of programs that offer additional training, and possibly certification, in areas of physiotherapy practice.

A physiotherapy specialist certification program requires formal post-graduate training that meets a predefined body of knowledge and competencies as well as an evaluation process that involves an examination. Further, specialist certification programs are also characterized by having a requirement for periodic recertification.

In order for a registrant to use a title that indicates that he/she is a specialist, the registrant must hold a specialty designation that is approved by the College. The Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (The Alliance) has developed a rigorous specialty recognition review process that allows a national approach to specialty recognition. As such, the College will consider the approval of specialty certifications recognized by The Alliance as designations that College registrants are entitled to use in conjunction with the title "specialist".

Position

Registrants may apply to the College for permission to use the title "specialist". Only specialty certification programs approved by The Alliance as meeting the level of rigour required to satisfy the use of title "specialist" in Canada will be considered by the College. A registrant granted permission to use the title "specialist" in Ontario will comply with the Standard for Professional Practice: Use of Restricted Titles, Credentials and Specialty Designations and will use his or her restricted title first (i.e. physiotherapist/physical therapist or PT) followed by his or her approved specialty designation. Registrants entitled to use the title "specialist" will have the relevant information indicating the type of specialty certification(s) he or she holds listed in the College's Public Register.

References

- Revised Regulations of Ontario. "Professional Misconduct Regulation, Ontario Regulation 388/08
- Standard for Professional Practice: Use of Restricted Title, Credentials and Specialty Designations.