



# PROVISIONAL PRACTICE *with Restrictions*

## INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS AND SUPERVISORS

Provisional Practice with Restrictions applies to Physiotherapy Residents who were unsuccessful in their first attempt of the clinical component of the Physiotherapy Competency Exam (PCE), but would like the opportunity to continue to practice, now under full and direct supervision (until the next administration of the clinical component of the exam).

The information provided here outlines the responsibilities of supervisors and residents who are engaged in Provisional Practice with Restrictions.

### Overview

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The mandate of the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario (the College) is to regulate the practice of physiotherapists in the province of Ontario. The College issues five certificates of registration:

- Independent Practice;
- Provisional Practice;
- Teaching Practice;
- Academic Practice; and
- Inactive.

The College is pilot testing a modification to the Provisional Practice certificate. This modification is called Provisional Practice with Restrictions and allows an individual who was unsuccessful at their first attempt at completing the clinical component of the PCE to continue to be registered as a Physiotherapy Resident. In keeping with the mandate of the College to protect the public, further restrictions to the Provisional Practice certificate in this category have been added. Provisional Practice with Restrictions requires onsite supervision at all times when the Physiotherapy Resident is involved in direct patient care in addition to more detailed reporting requirements.

An individual who is granted a Provisional Practice Certificate with Restrictions is entitled to continue practice as a physiotherapy resident provided he or she receives **full and direct supervision from a physiotherapist holding an Independent Practice Certificate**. The Resident is issued a registration number entitling him or her to perform controlled acts, bill for physiotherapy services, and complete client records. Physiotherapy residents are accountable to the College for their actions.

To qualify for a certificate authorizing Provisional Practice with Restrictions, the Resident must

- successfully complete a degree in physical therapy from a university in Canada or have gained an academic qualification from outside Canada that is considered by the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators as substantially equivalent
- successfully complete part one of the Physiotherapy Competency Exam, the written qualifying exam
- have attempted and not successfully completed the clinical component of the PCE on only one occasion.



*To be granted a Provisional Practice with Restrictions Certificate, the Resident's application must be approved by the Registration Committee of the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario.*

To apply to the College for a Provisional Practice with Restrictions Certificate, the Physiotherapy Resident must:

- submit a Provisional Practice with Restrictions Plan and Agreement that demonstrates that they will have the full and direct supervision of a physiotherapist(s) with a current Independent Practice Certificate while they are practising; and
- provide evidence that they are registered for the next available sitting of the clinical component of the PCE.

Please note that the Provisional Practice with Restrictions Certificate expires if the Registrant is unsuccessful at a second attempt at the clinical component of the PCE, and the registrant must cease to practice before the expiry date as shown on his or her certificate of registration. A Provisional Practice Certificate with Restrictions will not be re-issued. If the Physiotherapy Resident is successful at the second attempt at the clinical component of the PCE, the individual must apply for an Independent Practice Certificate before the expiry date listed on their certificate of registration.

## **Provisional Practice with Restrictions Plan and Agreement**

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The Provisional Practice with Restrictions Plan and Agreement is a written contract between the physiotherapy resident, the supervisor and the College that outlines the responsibilities of both the physiotherapy resident and the supervisor. The Provisional Practice with Restrictions Plan and Agreement is prepared by the resident and supervisor(s) and must accompany an application for a Provisional Practice with Restrictions Certificate.

The Provisional Practice with Restrictions Plan and Agreement states that the supervisor(s) will be on site at all times and provide full and direct supervision when the physiotherapy resident is providing patient care. Telephone contact does not constitute on-site supervision.

Residents may be supervised by more than one physiotherapist providing their name is shown on the Provisional Practice with Restrictions Agreement. However, each Physiotherapy Resident must have a primary supervising physiotherapist to coordinate supervision and provide effective communications. The primary supervisor must provide the majority of supervision and complete all reports for the College. He or she will ensure that the supervision plan is followed and that there is ongoing communication among all parties. The Primary Supervisor will be the main contact with the Physiotherapy Resident, the College and any other supervisors.

Supervisors are required to provide on-site, direct observation and evaluation of the practice of the resident in Provisional Practice with Restrictions to ensure effective and safe physiotherapy services are delivered without risk of harm to the public. The Agreement must be reviewed and approved by the College prior to issuance of the Provisional Practice with Restrictions certificate and must include:

- a plan of onsite supervision including identification of all supervisors;
- a plan to coordinate the supervision of the resident;
- a primary contact person — the primary supervisor; and
- mechanisms for providing supervision such as direct observation, review of documentation, case reviews and meetings between the resident and supervisor.



## Supervisor's Requirements and Responsibilities

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The goal of Provisional Practice with Restrictions is to ensure that the Physiotherapy Resident practices and delivers physiotherapy services that are safe, ethical and effective and that there is no undue risk of harm to the public.

### **The Supervisor must:**

- hold an Independent Practice Certificate and have a minimum of two years physiotherapy practice experience.
- consider the time and the resources needed for full and direct supervision to determine their ability to achieve the necessary level of supervision.
- be on-site at all times during which the physiotherapy resident is involved in direct patient care activities to supervise the physiotherapy resident's clinical practice in order to evaluate and ensure clinical competencies (knowledge, skills and abilities).
- be able to provide observation and contact to ensure clinical competency. However, the Supervisor is not required to be in the same room with the Resident at all times. Supervision via telephone is not considered to be on-site supervision. (The supervisor does not have to be onsite if the Resident is involved in non-direct patient activities such as documentation or research activities).
- include activities such as formal and informal observation, review of documentation, case reviews, meetings with the Resident and input from team members. Supervision may also include chart audit, demonstration of skills, formal performance review or project management.
- complete a formal evaluation of the Resident using the Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI) at the interim (dependent on the length of the supervision period) and conclusion of the Provisional Practice with Restrictions period.
- immediately (by phone within one business day) inform the Coordinator, Entry to Practice of any professional practices, incidents, conduct, incompetence or incapacity on the part of the applicant that may affect patient care or public safety. Examples where contact with the College may be necessary include (but are not limited to) committing a breach of confidentiality, or privacy, crossing boundaries, inappropriate billing, incapacity, a breach of the code of ethics, not seeking informed consent or any behaviour or action that endangers the public safety.

## Supervisor's Responsibilities in the Clinical Setting

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The main responsibility of the supervisor is to ensure the safety of the public by supervising the practice of the physiotherapy resident. Supervision through direct observation must be at a level that allows the Supervisor to be assured that the Resident can safely and competently practice the following:

- assessment;
- client goal setting;
- treatments;
- maintain client records and reports;
- the use of outcome measures;
- interaction and communication with clients and family;
- interaction and communication with other agencies and service providers.



Supervision will vary depending on the nature of the employment setting. In addition to direct observation, other methods of supervision may be appropriate;

- chart audit;
- videotape reviews;
- performance reviews; and
- peer reviews.

## Resident's Requirements and Responsibilities

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### The Physiotherapy Resident must:

- alert their employer of the expiry of his or her Provisional Practice Certificate and assist with interim arrangements to minimize disruption of care to patients;
- initiate discussion about the ability and willingness of the employer to provide full onsite supervision and support to the resident in their application for Provisional Practice with Restrictions;
- develop and complete a plan of supervision with the supervisor and employer;
- complete and submit all documentation related to the application for Provisional Practice with Restrictions;
- ensure that all patients continue to be aware of their physiotherapy resident status and obtain consent to treatment; and
- alert the College as to any changes to their practice or supervision and obtain College approval for any proposed change to the Provisional Practice with Restrictions plan before the change occurs.

## Joint Responsibilities

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The Resident and the Supervisor will develop, maintain and comply with the Provisional Practice with Restrictions Agreement and must ensure ongoing communication with the College.

The Provisional Practice with Restrictions Agreement must be completed and signed by the Supervisor(s) and the Resident and submitted to the College before a Certificate for Provisional Practice with Restrictions will be issued. Physiotherapy Residents must also include evidence that they have registered for the next sitting of the clinical component of the PCE with their application.



FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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