

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, both the specialist certification program through which he/she obtained the certification, and the name of the specialization itself must have been recognized by the College or an organization that is approved by the College as having met the College's requirements.

Position

There are currently no programs in Canada that provide specialist certification in an area of physiotherapy practice that is recognized by the profession as a specialty area of practice. As such, at this point in time, the College does not recognize specialists or specialization in any area of physiotherapy practice.

The College's professional misconduct regulation (O.Reg. 388/08 s. 1. 20.), forbids registrants from using the title "specialist", unless the member holds a specialty designation recognized by the College.

References

- Revised Regulations of Ontario. “Professional Misconduct Regulation, Ontario Regulation 388/08

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The information contained in this position statement may be time limited. Persons referring to this information more than two years from the date of publication should contact the College to confirm that the information is current.