

# Perspectives



November 2020 | [www.collegept.org](http://www.collegept.org) | [info@collegept.org](mailto:info@collegept.org)

Welcome to the November edition of Perspectives.

As you are no doubt aware, the number of COVID cases are on the rise across most of the province, with some areas in lockdown. To ensure you are a part of the solution to this problem, please continue to follow the [direction from the Ontario Government](#) and public health officials. We will continue to update our website and social media channels as new information becomes available.

As a reminder, if you are advised of exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, please contact your [local public health unit](#) to determine next steps. Thank you for your ongoing efforts to protect the safety of patients, caregivers and others across Ontario.

Stay safe,

Rod Hamilton  
Registrar  
College of Physiotherapists of Ontario

## NEW: Boundaries and Sexual Abuse E-Learning Module

We have recently developed a new comprehensive e-learning module to support the Boundaries and Sexual Abuse Standard.

Boundary violations are one of the most common concerns we hear about at the College. It is imperative that every PT knows how to establish and maintain appropriate boundaries in order to have successful therapeutic relationships with their patients.

The new e-learning module is interactive and covers every element of the [Boundaries and Sexual Abuse Standard](#), while also touching on the [Providing or Refusing Care Standard](#) and the [Communication Skills Resource](#). There are real-life scenarios and a quiz at the end to test your knowledge.

Learn more about:

- How to recognize and maintain unique boundaries
- Examples of boundary violations
- Why you can't treat family members/friends

- The definition of sexual abuse and the one year rule
- Mandatory reporting requirements

We are currently working on a French and audio version of the e-learning module. Stay tuned for updates.

And please feel free to share the e-learning module with students, assistants, your employer or anyone at all who might find it helpful.

[Try the Module Now](#)

## Case of the Month: A Momentary Lapse in Insurance

To register with the College, all physiotherapists must carry adequate liability insurance that meets certain parameters.

But what happens when your employer or business partner tells you that liability insurance has already been purchased for you?

It's YOUR responsibility to ensure there is an appropriate individual policy in place.

**Find out what happens when one PT doesn't realize their liability insurance has lapsed and they continue to deliver patient care in a new Case of the Month.**

[Read the Case](#)

## Reminder: Important Privacy Updates

As a reminder, the [Personal Health Information Protection Act](#) (PHIPA) was amended earlier this year, with more changes to come.

The College has an [updated guide to PHIPA](#) on our website.

Some of the key changes include:

- Health Information Custodians (HICs) will be required to establish and monitor an audit log for any electronic health records. The purpose of the log is to keep track of who accesses which parts of a patient's records and when, to prevent snooping or other privacy breaches.
- HICs using electronic health records will have to provide patients access to an electronic version of their records to allow for portability of those records for patients.
- There are a number of new rules for consumer electronic service providers (e.g., apps and online portals where patients can access and store personal information about themselves). Even PTs who do not use those apps/portals will need to become familiar with the rules about sharing, or managing requests to disclose, information with the consumer electronic service providers.
- The [Information and Privacy Commissioner](#) (IPC) has been given significant additional powers, including increased access to information from HICs (e.g., access to the electronic health record audit log), the ability to impose administrative monetary penalties for non-compliance with PHIPA and a doubling of the fines for offences under PHIPA.

Remember, you must notify the IPC immediately of significant privacy breaches and you are required to file an annual report with the IPC that details all privacy breaches.

Be sure to review the privacy information on the College's website for more information.

## Privacy Information and Resources

### Additional Privacy Resources

Also check out the following resources for information about the changes to PHIPA and the responsibilities of regulated health professionals.

Remember, if you have questions about the privacy legislation, it is always good practice to consult with a lawyer to ensure you are meeting the PHIPA and IPC requirements.

- [What You Need to Know About Privacy Law: An Overview of the PHIPA 2004](#)
- [Recent and Upcoming Changes to PHIPA](#) from Kate Dewhirst
- [Responding to a Health Privacy Breach: Guidelines for the Health Sector](#) (IPC)

### Do You Have Enough Practice Hours?

The College is responsible for ensuring all PTs have the knowledge and skills to deliver safe and competent patient care. The Registration Regulation measures this by making sure that anyone with an Independent Practice Certificate has completed the Physiotherapy Competency Exam (PCE) or worked at least 1,200 practice hours over the previous five-year period.

**A friendly reminder:** physiotherapists who have not completed the PCE within the last five years will be required to report their practice hours for 2020 as part of the 2021 - 2022 annual renewal process, which will run from February 1 to March 31, 2021.

For the next registration year - 2021-2022 - the College will review your reported practice hours from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2020 to ensure you have 1,200 practice hours.

Now is the time to make sure you have enough practice hours to meet the registration requirements.

Practice hours may include:

- Hours worked that you have been paid for (clinical settings, consultation, research, administration, academia or sales)
- Professional activity/development hours (maximum 30 per year). Professional activity hours include volunteer activity which requires the use of physiotherapy theory and knowledge, continuing education hours and/or participation

If you have questions about the practice hour requirement, please contact the Registration Team at [registration@colleget.org](mailto:registration@colleget.org) or 1-800-583-5885 ext. 222.

## More About Practice Hours

# Top Practice Advice Questions for November

Find out what your peers are asking the Practice Advice team this month.

- Can a PT continue to provide physiotherapy services in areas in lockdown?
- What is an appropriate level of supervision for a PT Resident?
- Can I see patients independently in their homes or other community setting?

If you have a question for the Practice Advisors call 1-800-583-5885 (extension 241) or email [advice@collegept.org](mailto:advice@collegept.org).

## Top Practice Advice Questions

### Practice Advice Question

*Can a physiotherapy student perform a controlled act as part of their training?*

[Get the Answer](#)

### Myth vs Fact

*There are some situations where a PT may supervise a PT resident virtually.*

Is this a myth or a fact?

[Find Out](#)



## Patient Safety Resources

The Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI) has valuable resources for both patients and health care professionals.

The Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI) has more than 10 years experience implementing programs that enhance safety across every aspect of the health care system.

They have a variety of free tools and education opportunities available to help health care providers, like physiotherapists, improve patient safety. All patients have the right to safe, competent and ethical physiotherapy care - and their safety is in your hands.

Check out these resources:

- [A Guide to Patient Safety Improvement](#)
- [Virtual Care Resources](#)
- [Creating a Safe Space: Psychological Safety of Healthcare Workers](#)
- [On Demand Webinars](#)
- [STOP! Clean Your Hands](#)

## Fraud is Fraud: Health Benefits Fraud Hurts Everyone

The Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association has launched a new [Fraud is Fraud](#) website for health care providers. Benefits fraud puts your livelihood and your patients' access to health care in jeopardy. Your patients could lose their benefits and you could lose your license to practice.

Help protect patients and yourself by:

- Being clear about the services and supplies you provide
- Providing accurate and complete invoices and receipts
- Following correct claim submission procedures
- Directing patients to their employer or insurance carrier if they have questions about their coverage

Check out the [Fraud is Fraud](#) website for more information about protecting patients and yourself, FAQs and a quiz about group benefits plans.

[More About Business Practices](#)

## Poor Business Practices in Action

To see examples of poor business practices in action and avoid the same pitfalls, review past Cases of the Month:

- [Suspicious Spa Services](#)
- [Personal Training is Not Physiotherapy](#)
- [Surprise, Your PT is Delisted](#)
- [Pilates Problems](#)

**Welcome**  
New Registrants

The College would like to welcome our newly registered physiotherapists.

[View the List](#)

## Questions? Ask the Advisor

Free, Confidential Advice Available for the Public and  
Practice Advice for Physiotherapists

Call 1-800-583-5885 ext. 241 or 416-591-3828 ext. 241  
or email [advice@collegept.org](mailto:advice@collegept.org)

Comments or questions related to Perspectives?  
Get in touch at [communications@collegept.org](mailto:communications@collegept.org) or 1-800-583-5885 ext. 234.

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