

COLLEGE OF PHYSICAL THERAPISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

ADVISORY STATEMENT

Number 1

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CONCURRENT TREATMENT PRACTICES

Concurrent Treatment: Where a patient receives care from a physical therapist and another health care professional, including another physical therapist, for the same injury or disease which could adversely affect the physical therapy treatment outcome.

1. Concurrent treatment may be provided when, in the physical therapist's professional judgment the treatment is clinically indicated, and compatible with the treatment approach of other treating health care professionals, and does not constitute an unethical or inefficient use of health care resources.
2. The physical therapist is advised to ascertain what concurrent treatment the patient is receiving that may influence the efficacy of the physical therapy treatment.
3. In circumstances where, in the physical therapist's judgment, the concurrent physical therapy treatment is unsafe and/or unnecessary this should be communicated to the patient. In this circumstance, treatment should not be provided.
4. Informed consent is required prior to communication with other treatment providers.
5. Roles of treating health care professionals should be established and clearly communicated to the patient at the outset of treatment to avoid confusion while treatment is occurring.
6. When a physical therapist is aware that concurrent treatment is occurring, as with any treatment, clear documentation is of the utmost importance. Additional care should be taken in asking subjective questions to determine the effect of your treatment versus another health care professional's treatment. This is especially important in the event of a poor outcome.

Additional Resources:

College of Physiotherapists of Ontario. Standards for Professional Practice. Concurrent Treatment of a Patient By a Physiotherapist and Another Health Care Professional. College of Physiotherapists of Ontario; Toronto, February 2005.