

COLLEGE OF PHYSICAL THERAPISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

PRACTICE STANDARD

Number 12

Effective: April 1, 2008

Replaces: September 1, 2006

INTRAPELVIC ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT

1. The physical therapist must obtain informed consent from their patient prior to proceeding with intrapelvic assessment and treatment. See the Practice Standard on Consent to Treatment.
2. The clinical record must document that informed consent for intrapelvic assessment and treatment was obtained and must include what the patient has been told and the patient's response.
3. Informed consent must be obtained prior to each intrapelvic assessment and treatment. Consent may be withdrawn by the patient at any time and must be documented accordingly.
4. The physical therapist must advise the patient that the patient may have a third party of their choice present during their assessment and treatment.
5. During intrapelvic assessment and treatment, the dignity of the patient must be maintained and the physical therapist must exercise utmost discretion. See the Practice Standard on Draping for Patients.
6. A private secure treatment area must be used when providing intrapelvic assessment and treatment.
7. The physical therapist must adhere to World Health Organization Standard Precautions (www.wpro.who.int/sars/docs/practicalguidelines/dec2004/chapter3.pdf) and use current infection control procedures (www.bccdc.org/content.php?item=194).

Additional Resources:

College of Physical Therapists of Alberta. Position statement: intrapelvic dysfunction. College of Physical Therapists of Alberta; 2005.

College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC. Policy Manual. Precautions in practice; June 1995.

College of Physiotherapists of Ontario. Physical therapy and manual or instrument techniques in the treatment of urogenital and rectal conditions. College of Physiotherapists of Ontario; 1998.

For information on informed consent see the *Health Care (Consent) and Care Facility (Admission) Act* at www.qp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/stat/H/96181_01.htm and the *Infant's Act* at www.qp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/stat/I/96223_01.htm.

For information on Standard Precautions and current infection control guidelines visit:

- World Health Organization website at www.wpro.who.int/sars/docs/practicalguidelines/dec2004/chapter3.pdf.
- BC Centre for Disease Control website at www.bccdc.org/content.php?item=194.
- Public Health Agency of Canada website at www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/dpg_e.html#infection.

Saskatchewan College of Physical Therapists. Position Statement. Pelvic floor retraining and treatment of urogenital and rectal dysfunctions. Saskatchewan College of Physical Therapists; 2001.