

# COLLEGE OF PHYSICAL THERAPISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## PRACTICE STANDARD

Number 13

Effective: April 1, 2009

Replaces: April 1, 2008

### USE OF TITLE AND CREDENTIALS

**Title** refers to the words ‘Physical Therapist’, ‘Registered Physical Therapist’, ‘Physiotherapist’, and ‘Registered Physiotherapist’ as defined and described in the *Health Professions Act, Physical Therapist Regulation*.

**Credentials** refer to words or abbreviations that indicate an educational qualification from an accredited educational institution, certification or specific competency. Credentials are used by the physical therapist in formal and informal written or verbal communication related to the provision of physical therapy services.

A physical therapist with additional education and qualifications must not use the title ‘specialist’ or any similar designation suggesting recognized special status on letterhead, business cards, or other marketing activity.

### PRACTICE STANDARD

1. The physical therapist’s use of credentials are limited to those that meet the following criteria:
  - denotes an educational standard commonly understood by the public, e.g. BSc(PT), or Masters Degree (MPT), or DPT; granted from an accredited educational institution.
2. Communication of additional educational achievements must be written in a clear and complete manner as to be understood by the public, without the use of abbreviations, and must be written on the line below the physical therapist’s credentials. For example: Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Manipulative Therapists, or certified by the Acupuncture Foundation of Canada Institute, Certified Hand Therapist, or Canadian Certified Professional Ergonomist.
3. Many physical therapists engage in continuing education in the course of a career. There are benefits to both physical therapists and the public when such information is communicated clearly, consistently and completely. If used, information about additional education, preferred areas of practice or practice area of interest must be communicated as follows: *Practice limited to hand therapy or PT with additional education in pediatric therapy.*
4. Professional association, society or body memberships are not credentials and must not be conveyed as such, e.g. MCPA (member of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association).
5. Physical therapists who hold a doctorate degree must not use the title ‘doctor’ or an abbreviation of the title (Dr) preceding their name when providing patient care services as a Physical Therapist. The conferred doctoral degree is noted after their name and related physical therapist qualification, e.g., BHSc(PT), PhD.
6. Physical therapists who practice more than one discipline must keep their roles, titles, credentials, documentation and billing practice separate and distinct.

Additional Resources:

College of Physical Therapists of Alberta. Practice Advice- Professional, Use of title & credentials. CPTA website [cited 2007 Jan 02]; Available from: URL: [http://www.physiotherapyalberta.ca/files/practice\\_standard\\_title\\_and\\_credentials.pdf](http://www.physiotherapyalberta.ca/files/practice_standard_title_and_credentials.pdf)