

Standards of Practice

Competence



Standard

The physiotherapist practices within her/his level of **competence** and actively pursues continuous lifelong learning to maintain competence in existing and emerging areas of her/his practice.

Expected outcome

Clients can expect that the services they receive are delivered by a physiotherapist who actively maintains her/his competence in existing and emerging areas of practice.

Performance expectations

The physiotherapist:

- Maintains the competence requirements reflected in Essential Competency Profile for Physiotherapists in Canada.
- Practices within her/his level of competence, incorporating the required knowledge and skills to deliver **quality** client-centered care.
- Takes appropriate actions (e.g., referral to another physiotherapist or health-care provider, courses, mentorship) in situations where he/she does not have the required competence to deliver quality client-centered care.
- Complies with the appropriate Alberta regulatory requirements of continuing competence programs.
- Incorporates use of competence reflection tools, established benchmarks, Standards or other methods (where available) to assess performance, and feedback from peers, clients and others to enhance self-reflection to identify learning needs and objectives to maintain competence.
- Actively participates in self-directed life-long learning to maintain competence in existing practice areas and to acquire competence in new and emerging areas of practice.

Clients are recipients of physiotherapy services, and may be individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities, or populations. An individual client may also be referred to as a patient. In some circumstances, clients/patients may be represented by their substitute decision-makers.

Competence is the degree to which an individual can use the knowledge, skills, and judgments associated with the profession to perform effectively within the domain of professional encounters defining the scope of professional practice.⁵ Competence is developmental, impermanent, and context-specific.⁶

- Competency is the ability to perform a practice task with a specified level of proficiency.

Quality of health-care services refers to the “acceptability, accessibility, appropriateness, effectiveness, efficiency, and safety” of the services provided.

Related Standards

- Client Assessment, Diagnosis, Interventions
- Evidence-Informed Practice
- Legislative Responsibilities