

Standards of Practice

Infection Control

Standard

The physiotherapist complies with current **infection prevention and control best practice recommendations** to support the health and safety of clients, health-care providers, themselves, and others.

Expected outcome

Clients can expect that the measures in place for infection prevention and control during the provision of physiotherapy services comply with applicable legislation, regulatory requirements, standards, guidelines, and current best practice recommendations.

Performance expectations

The physiotherapist:

- Acquires education, training, and proficiency regarding best practice recommendations for infection prevention and control relevant to their practice.
- Applies infection prevention and control techniques and current best practice recommendations relevant to their physiotherapy practice consistently and effectively. This includes:
 - Conducting a **Point of Care Risk Assessment** prior to each client interaction.
 - Employing the **personal protective equipment** indicated by the Point of Care Risk Assessment.
 - Completing effective hand hygiene before and after each client interaction.
 - Practicing effective respiratory hygiene.
- Ensures all physiotherapy spaces and equipment are cleaned and disinfected prior to client use.
- Disposes of devices and materials according to best practice recommendations and established protocols.
- Follows manufacturer's specifications, relevant legislation, and Alberta Health standards and policies for the use, cleaning, disinfection, and reprocessing of equipment and devices.
- Documents details of reprocessing and sterilization of reusable critical and semi-critical medical equipment including parameters used. Retains this documentation for five (5) years.
- Is aware of and fulfills their legislated responsibilities regarding public health and worksite safety.

Best practice recommendations refers to the advice or direction provided by public health experts, Medical Officers of Health, or as reported in relevant guidance documents.

Infection prevention and control refers to "measures practiced by health-care personnel intended to prevent spread, transmission and acquisition of infectious agents or pathogens between clients, from health-care workers to clients, and from clients to health-care workers in the health-care setting."

Personal protective equipment (PPE) refers to items in place for infection prevention and control, such as masks, gloves, gowns, and goggles.

Point of Care Risk Assessment (PoCRA) is a routine practice that should be conducted by a physiotherapist before every client interaction to assess the likelihood of exposing themselves and/or others to infectious agents. The point of care risk assessment informs the physiotherapist's use of PPE and other infection control measures.

Related Standards

- Assessment, Diagnosis, Treatment
- Risk Management and Safety