

# Regulation: Why Does it Matter?

For patients and the public, the regulation of physiotherapists ensures that the profession is accountable and meets or exceeds professional responsibilities.

**What do physiotherapists gain by being part of a regulated profession?**

## 1. Title Protection

Only registrants can refer to themselves as physiotherapists. This protects the public by making sure they receive physiotherapy services from qualified, competent physiotherapists.

## 2. Scope of Practice

Through regulation, physiotherapists may also become authorized to perform restricted activities – something unregulated health providers cannot do.

## 3. Credibility

When the Government of Alberta grants a profession the privilege of regulation, it entails a level of oversight and accountability that often leads to increased public trust and credibility.

## 4. Self-Regulation

The College, its registrants and the government have duties to fulfill as part of the contract that is health regulation.

In return, physiotherapists are granted title protection and the ability to set the rules of practice (i.e., the Standards of Practice and a Code of Ethical Conduct). This means that physiotherapists (in collaboration with the Alberta public, as represented by public members of Council), rather than an external group, establish what acceptable PT practice looks like.

It's up to all of us to fulfill our end of the contract with government. Physiotherapists do this by knowing and fulfilling the professional responsibilities established in legislation, the Code of Ethics, and the Standards of Practice. The College does this by fulfilling the responsibilities assigned to us by the Government of Alberta.