New Zealand Physiotherapy Standards
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Fostering excellence in physiotherapy – Physiotherapists actively making a difference
Fostering excellence in physiotherapy – Physiotherapists actively making a difference
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Physiotherapy Standards framework
2018

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Fostering Excellence

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Physiotherapy practice thresholds in Australia & Aotearoa New Zealand (2015)
Professional Conduct

1. **Physiotherapists respect the patient and their whānau and families**

   The relationship between physiotherapist and their patient is one of trust, and as such physiotherapists must:

   1.1 **respect the dignity, privacy, bodily integrity, and mental wellbeing of patients.**

   1.2 **conduct themselves in a respectful manner towards the patient as well as their whānau, family and carers**

   1.3 **practise with due care and respect for a patient’s culture, needs, values, worldviews and beliefs, including Te Ao Māori.**

   1.4 **not impose their own values and beliefs on patients or their whānau and family.**

   Relevant law: [Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers’ Rights Act 1996](https://www.govt.nz/browse/laws) Rights 1, 2, 3 and 4.

   Relevant resources: *Physiotherapy practice thresholds in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, 2016* Principle 1: 1.3; 1.4; 2.2B; 4.1C; 5.1.

10. Physiotherapists accept responsibility for upholding the integrity of the profession.

Physiotherapists must:

10.1 raise concerns about issues, wrongdoings or risks you may have witnessed, observed or been made aware of in the practice setting that could endanger a patient or others.

Commentary:

- Reflect and consider the strength and credibility of the evidence related to the situation.
- Raise your concerns with colleagues or other members of the team if they are contributing to your concerns.
- If you are unsure, seek advice from a senior colleague or professional organisation.
- Formally raise your concerns with your manager or a senior person within your employment situation.
- Escalate your concerns to a higher level within your employing organisations if the issue is not resolved.
- If your efforts to resolve the situation within the workplace continue to be unsatisfactory, escalate your concerns to another appropriate body, for example, the Physiotherapy Board, Ministry of Health, Health and Disability Commissioner, or other health professional regulatory authority.
Informed consent standard

Introduction

Trust is a vital element in the patient - physiotherapist relationship. For trust to exist, patients and physiotherapists must believe that the other party is honest and willing to provide all necessary information that may influence the treatment or advice. ‘Consent’ for health professionals means permitting someone to do something they would not have the right to do without such permission. The patient must indicate that approval for a particular assessment, and/or procedure(s) has been given, or declined.

Informed consent is a culturally sensitive interactive process between a physiotherapist and patient where the patient gains an understanding of his or her condition and receives an explanation of the options available including an assessment of the expected risks, side effects, benefits and costs of each option and thus can make an informed choice and give their informed consent.

Legally valid informed consent consists of three key components. The patient must be competent to consent, appropriately informed, and able to give voluntary consent or not.

New Zealand law

The Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers’ Rights (1996) states every patient has the right to make an informed choice and to give informed consent, except in certain circumstances (Right 4 & 5).

The Care of Children Act 2004 (Section 36) states that children over the age of 16 years can give consent as if they are adults. It is not clear whether parental consent is always necessary for (medical) treatment for persons under 16 years. Section 36 does not automatically prohibit persons under 16 years from consenting to treatment.

1. Consent

1.1 Physiotherapists must seek patient informed consent before providing any physiotherapy services, ensuring their consent is freely given and appropriately documented. (Aotearoa New Zealand Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct 2017, 2.6).
Physiotherapy in Depth

Who are health records for?

Physiotherapy is not confined to clinical practice, and

Primarily, health records are for you as they demonstrate that you have done your job as a health professional. They are essential for the provision of quality health care.

We're all special, but only some of us are

We've had quite a few complaints about physiotherapists misusing the term “specialist” and its derivations when they shouldn't, so we've put together a video with our Registrar fancy Johnston to deal with that. Can't let these sorts of things.

I'm not working clinically – do I need an APC?

The physiotherapy “general scope of practice” is precisely that, general and broad. The first element of the scope is: The practice of physiotherapy is not confined to clinical practice, and

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