

Model of Care Initiative in Nova Scotia (MOCINS) Standardized Role Profile

Physiotherapist Assistant

Purpose of this Document:

To describe the intent of a standardized/consistent role for a ***Physiotherapy Assistant (PTA)*** based on recommendations from the Allied Health Working Groups.

The following table identifies those role functions of the ***Physiotherapy Assistant (PTA)*** that are expected to have a renewed emphasis and be optimized in the new Collaborative Care Model, as well as tasks that can be safely transferred out of the role, either to another role within the profession or to other members of the care team.

Note: It is expected that all staff in Nova Scotia practice according to the standards defined by the respective college or professional association and no attempt should be made to replicate these expectations in this draft document.

Renewed Emphasis	Optimized	Transferred
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Participation in collaborative team decision making regarding patients' care including physiotherapy assessment and care plan. ➤ Progression of ambulation and functional mobility training. ➤ Progression of established treatment programs as appropriate. ➤ Implementation of established educational programs. ➤ Patient and family instruction in the use of assistive mobility devices with progression as appropriate. ➤ Application of some treatment modalities including but not limited to ultrasound, interferential current, TENS. ➤ Please note: all progressions of treatment delegated to and carried out by PTA remain at the discretion of the PT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Documentation in the health record. ➤ Implementation and progression of other aspects of PT care, including but not limited to airway clearance techniques and including all aspects noted in 'Renewed Emphasis'. ➤ Administering specified, delegated outcome measures ➤ Clinical education and evaluation of physiotherapy assistant students ➤ Planning, implementation and evaluation of health promotion programs or activities. ➤ Gathering information about available resources in the health system or community to support client care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Equipment inventory, supply, organization ➤ Clerical tasks (typing, copying, filing, workload statistical input, reception) ➤ Porterage ➤ Mobility for maintenance of function.

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<p>Role Summary:</p> <p>The Physiotherapist (PT) is one of the collaborators in the Collaborative Care Model, participating in the provision of holistic, comprehensive care to meet the needs of clients.</p> <p>As a member of the team, the PT participates in the overall plan of care for the client by providing physiotherapy services when indicated. Physiotherapy service includes: the assessment of needs, care planning, Physiotherapy interventions, education, and monitoring/evaluating the impact of physiotherapy interventions, and coordination of care.</p> <p>The PT provides care in collaboration with the patient and family, other health team members throughout all stages of health and complexities of illness.</p> <p>The PT participates in the provision of safe, competent, patient centered, ethical care, ensuring the goals and needs of the patient are prioritized and individualized. Using professional knowledge, critical thinking and clinical judgment, the PT engages in independent, interdependent and dependent functions to provide health care focusing on comprehensive assessment, integrated plans of care, patient/family education, coordination of care, facility/student education, and research. These functions may be self-determined, assigned by the physician, another PT or requested by other members of the care team.</p>	<p>Role Summary:</p> <p>The Physiotherapy Assistant (PTA) is one of the collaborators in the Collaborative Care Model, participating in the provision of holistic, comprehensive care to meet the needs of clients.</p> <p>As a member of the team, the PTA participates in the overall plan of care for the client by providing physiotherapy interventions and education under the supervision of and as delegated by the PT.</p> <p>The PTA provides care in collaboration with the patient, family and other health team members throughout all stages of health and complexities of illness.</p> <p>The PTA participates in the provision of safe, competent, patient centered, ethical care, ensuring the goals and needs of the patient are prioritized and individualized.</p>
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<p><i>Physiotherapist's Key Responsibilities:</i></p> <p>I. COMPETENT PRACTICE</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Screens referrals to physiotherapy to determine individuals' need for services. 2. Screens patients for potential need for referral to physiotherapy (e.g. triage in ER) 3. Performs initial and ongoing assessment. Assessment involves the identification of physical limitations. Specifically, the assessment may include, but is not limited to assessment of : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility (ambulation, transfers, functional activity, stairs, bed mobility, wheelchair mobility, etc.) • Range of Motion • Strength/Endurance • Balance • Respiratory Function • Cardiac Function • Tone • Coordination/Motor Control • Posture/Positioning • Pain • Neurological Sensation • Patients' knowledge of their condition 4. Utilizes appropriate assessment tools including standardized mobility, balance and neurological assessments 5. Recognizes changes in physical performance, functional abilities, and health care needs and adjusts the care plan accordingly. 6. Collaborates with members of the 	<p><i>Physiotherapy Assistant's Key Responsibilities:</i></p> <p>I. COMPETENT PRACTICE</p> <p><u>Communication:</u></p> <p>Establishes and maintains effective communication with the client, family and other members of the team including the PT.</p> <p>Administers specified outcome measures as delegated by the PT.</p> <p>Observes, monitors and documents client's physical performance within scope of practice, as delegated by the PT.</p> <p>Reports client information and performance to support the physiotherapy assessment/reassessment processes to the PT.</p> <p>Recognizes changes in physical performance, functional abilities, and health care needs and reports these findings to the PT.</p>
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<p>healthcare team and patient/family to collect, validate and expand assessment data.</p> <p>7. Documents and communicates pertinent information in a timely manner.</p>	
<p><u>Planning:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyzes assessment data to identify the patient's needs. 2. Interprets the assessment findings for the patient, family, significant others, and/or the health care team. 3. Engages the patient/family/caregiver in the collaborative goal setting process to identify the patient's priorities and needs. 4. Initiates planning related to collaborative goals. This includes goals, expected outcomes, and plan of care. 5. Applies knowledge of pertinent physiotherapy and related healthcare research and evidence to care planning; uses current knowledge to justify plan of care. 6. Collaborates, partners, and communicates with the individual, family, community, health care team, and service providers when there is a difference between the care plan and the wants, needs and abilities of the patient. 7. Potentially order diagnostic tests as appropriate, and/or fast track referrals to physician specialists and other healthcare professionals 	<p><u>Planning:</u></p> <p>Contributes to the development and revision of the intervention activities within the physiotherapy plan.</p> <p>Collaborates, partners, and communicates with the PT, individual, family, community, health care team, and service providers when there is a difference between the care plan and the wants, needs and abilities of the client.</p>
<p><u>Implementation:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provides physiotherapy treatment based on the plan of care. This includes, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility training • Exercise programs for range of motion, strength/endurance, balance, coordination, tone management • Patient handling and positioning techniques to facilitate safe mobility, optimize function, and prevent potential impairments • Education of patient, family, caregivers and other members of the collaborative care team 	<p><u>Implementation:</u></p> <p>In collaboration with the health care team and the client and family, provides physiotherapy treatment as delegated/established by the Physiotherapist, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility training • Exercise programs for range of motion, strength/endurance, balance, coordination, tone management • Patient handling and positioning techniques to facilitate safe mobility, optimize function, and prevent

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimizing cardiac and respiratory function • Application of appropriate therapeutic modalities <p>2. Delegates treatment to physiotherapy support staff to the maximum of their training/ability</p> <p>3. Develops and implements appropriate home and community based programming to maintain and optimize the performance of the patient in their own environments.</p> <p>4. Consults, collaborates and communicates effectively with patients, families, communities, team members and internal/external resources as appropriate to implement and coordinate a timely plan of care/services.</p> <p>5. Performs beyond entry level competencies, medical directives and delegated medical functions as approved for the practice setting as per the Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists and the Physiotherapist Act.</p>	<p>potential impairments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education of patient, family, caregivers • Airway clearance techniques • Application of therapeutic modalities <p>In consultation with the PT and the health care team, discontinues specific interventions if a client has an adverse reaction or if the client is at risk.</p> <p>Contributes to the coordination of physiotherapy practice to ensure an effective client-centered treatment environment, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Uses and monitors equipment and space to support service delivery. ➤ Gathers information about available resources in the health system or community to support client care. ➤ Establishes priorities for client caseload management in consultation with the PT. ➤ Contributes to performance management to peers, PTA students and volunteers. ➤ Assigns non-physiotherapeutic tasks to other support workers and volunteers. ➤ Provides appropriate supervision of PTA students. <p>Contributes to safe and cost-effective physiotherapy practice including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in cost-effective acquisition and use of physical resources. • Participates in inventory control, safe storage of materials and supply management.
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<p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluates, reports, and documents expected and unexpected responses to care, using standardized outcome measures as appropriate. 2. Reviews and revises the plan of care based on reassessment of changing status and progress. 3. Recognizes patterns of health care needs within the population served, including health promotion and prevention, (such as fall prevention and chronic disease management) and assesses the effectiveness of interventions over time. 4. Discusses observations with and makes recommendations to collaborative care team and leaders to influence program development/evaluation. 5. Maintains an accurate account of care given through clear, concise, written and verbal communication and evaluates, communicates and documents patient/client response to care. 6. Evaluates plan of care and makes revisions to plan as necessary in consultation and collaboration with other members of the health care team and patient/family/caregivers in the development and revision of the plan of care 	<p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p>Monitors client responses and status during the application of assigned, specific physiotherapy interventions.</p> <p>Makes suggestions to the PT regarding outcomes/findings.</p> <p>Participates in documentation and recording of client information that support physiotherapy service delivery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents the physiotherapy intervention provided. • Reports and documents expected and unexpected responses to care. • Documents information related to standardized outcome measures as delegated by the PT. <p>Participates in the planning, implementation and evaluation of health promotion initiatives and programs such as but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General conditioning classes. • Health promotion classes like diabetes or asthma management. • Falls prevention.
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