

International Regulation Profile

Country: Canada

Regulatory Model

Each province has a College of Physiotherapists/Physical Therapists that has been given legislative authority by the province to regulate the profession of physiotherapy. Additionally, the Yukon Territories regulate physiotherapy through the Territorial government's Department of Community Services. The remaining two territories (Northwest Territories and Nunavut) do not regulate physiotherapists at this time. Physiotherapists wishing to practice in one of these territories need to be registered with one of the provincial regulatory Colleges.

Model Description

To practice physiotherapy, physiotherapists must be registered with the provincial College and can practice only in that province. Provisions are currently in place for recognition of licenses from one province to the next as long as the same registration categories exist in both provinces. This eases portability of license and movement across provinces when needed. Qualification for registration include graduation from an accredited physiotherapy program (or successful credentialling for those educated outside Canada), and passing the national Physiotherapy Competency Examination (PCE), which comprises a written qualifying exam and a clinical component. Each province has its own definition of scope of practice and title protection. Requirements for practice in the Province of Quebec differ slightly.

The Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators is the national not-for-profit federation of physiotherapy regulators in Canada. It develops and maintains the PCE. It has also developed a credentialling program that is mandatory for all physiotherapists who have been educated outside Canada who wish to practice in the Yukon Territory or any province excluding Quebec.

Website

Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators: <http://www.alliancept.org/>