



***Proclamation for Changes to the Physiotherapy Act Announced!
Let the Celebrations Begin!!***

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has just announced proclamation of many of the changes and additions to the physiotherapy profession's scope of practice and authorized acts contained in the Bill 179 amendments to the Physiotherapy Act, 1991. **These will come into effect on September 1, 2011.**

Most importantly, this announcement includes the new scope of practice statement:

“The practice of physiotherapy is the assessment of neuromuscular, musculoskeletal and cardio respiratory systems, the diagnosis of diseases or disorders associated with physical dysfunction, injury or pain and the treatment, rehabilitation and prevention or relief of physical dysfunction, injury or pain to develop, maintain, rehabilitate or augment function and promote mobility.”

Also effective September 1, physiotherapists who meet the appropriate standard of practice of the profession may perform the additional authorized acts of:

- Communicating a diagnosis identifying a disease, disorder or dysfunction as the cause of a person's symptoms;
- Treating a wound below the dermis by cleansing, soaking, irrigating, probing, debriding, packing, or dressing;
- Placing an instrument, hand or finger, beyond the labia majora, or beyond the anal verge for the purpose of assessing or rehabilitating pelvic musculature relating to incontinence or pain disorders;
- Administering a substance by inhalation, when ordered by a member of another profession authorized to perform the procedure.

Some changes to the profession's scope of practice (primarily the ordering of forms of diagnostic tools) do not yet have a set date for implementation as the government is still in the process of developing required regulation changes to enact these new authorities. Changes that await regulations to facilitate proclamation include:

- The authority of “ordering the application of a prescribed form of energy”, which we anticipate will permit physiotherapists to order diagnostic ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging
- The authority for physiotherapists to order laboratory tests under the Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act.
- The authority for physiotherapists to order x-rays investigations under the Healing Arts Radiation Protection Act.

We would like to thank our partners at the Ontario Physiotherapy Leadership Consortium (OPLC) and all who have worked hard to make this happen. We extend our thanks to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the McGuinty government, and the many others who helped and supported these changes to our scope of practice. This is an exciting and long-awaited advance for our profession in being able to use our competencies to the fullest in the service of our patients and Ontario's health care delivery system.



Council of the
College of Physiotherapists of Ontario



The Board of Directors of the
Ontario Physiotherapy Association