



May 24, 2024

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Submitted via Email to sylvia.jones@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Jones,

Re:- Physiotherapy Scope of Practice Expansion

I am writing in follow up to our letters to you on August 8, 2022 and April 18, 2024 for which we have received no response.

We remain very committed on behalf of the physiotherapy profession to work with the Ministry of Health and Ontario Health in advancing much-needed scope of practice changes that will serve Ontarians and provide more timely access to health care.

We still await the enactment of regulations to activate legislation that was passed in 2009 and proclaimed in 2018. Specifically, the two changes are:

1. **Ordering diagnostic imaging.** The requisite amendments to the *Healing Arts Radiation Protection Act* were passed by the Ontario Legislature in December 2009 and were proclaimed into force and effect on April 1, 2018. **What is still needed is the final enabling regulation change under the *Healing Arts Radiation Protection Act*.**
2. **Ordering Laboratory tests.** No statutory amendments are required. **What is still needed are regulation amendments under the *Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act*.** Those regulation amendments were endorsed by the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council and their enactment was promised in 2009 as part of the larger package of scope of practice changes for the profession.

A direct consequence of continued delay and inaction is that Ontario's physiotherapists now work within a scope of practice more limited than their colleagues in other Canadian provinces, including Alberta, Québec and Nova Scotia. Where Ontario led, we have now fallen behind. Patients are waiting longer to access necessary rehabilitative care and suffer unnecessarily - in part because of an unnecessary administrative requirement to get a diagnostic requisition from a physician or emergency care setting. Our system resources need to be allocated so that each health profession can practise to the full extent of their training and scope – expanding points of access and providing efficient and effective collaborative care.



The College of Physiotherapists currently has in place the regulatory framework to ensure that these additional authorities are exercised only by registrants who are fully competent to perform them safely and effectively.

We are requesting a meeting to discuss this important and outstanding request.

On behalf of Ontario Physiotherapists, we look forward to hearing from you about how we make progress together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Courtney Bean".

Courtney Bean, PT, DMT (cand)
President
president@opa.on.ca

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Sarah Hutchison".

Sarah Hutchison
Chief Executive Officer
shutchison@opa.on.ca

cc: Deborah Richardson, Deputy Minister of Health
Matt Anderson, CEO, Ontario Health

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