

Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care

Office of the Minister

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Mr. Gary Rehan
President
College of Physiotherapists of Ontario
375 University Avenue, Suite 901
Toronto ON M5G 2J5

Ms. Wendy Smith
President
Ontario Physiotherapy Association
55 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 210
Toronto ON M4P 1G8

Dear Mr. Rehan and Ms. Smith:

I am writing in regard to changes to the scope of practice for physiotherapists that will enhance patient access. These include fulfilling our government's commitment to allow physiotherapists to order:

- laboratory tests;
- specified x-rays; and
- diagnostic ultrasounds

The *Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care* sets out four pillars that underlie our government's plan to change and improve our health care system: Access, Connect, Inform and Protect. As part of the Access pillar, our government is committed to providing increased access to the right care, which includes expanding scopes of practice. To this end, I have asked the ministry to move forward on assessing scope of practice changes beginning with those contained in the *Regulated Health Professions Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009* and the *Stronger, Healthier Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2017*.

I have directed the ministry to implement an approach to reviewing scope of practice requests based on the principles of putting patients first. The ministry has developed a Model for the Evaluation of Scopes of Practice in Ontario (MESPO), a framework that sets out a rigorous approach that focuses on patient need, system need and safe practice, to guide decision-making and implementation. The MESPO framework will be used to assess all scope changes going forward.

To help achieve the Patients First Action Plan's objective to increase access to the right care at the right time, the scopes of practice initiative will require extensive work between the College, Association and the ministry.

I am asking for your cooperation in working with the ministry to move forward on these items, which will involve the making of government regulations and College regulations and proclaiming outstanding provisions in legislation. Ministry staff will be in contact with you to discuss timelines and the staging activities associated with this work and will work with you to move these forward as quickly as possible.

I would like to thank you for your continued contributions to the healthcare system in Ontario and I look forward to your participation on this important project.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister

- c: Dr. Robert Bell, Deputy Minister, MOHLTC
Denise Cole, Assistant Deputy Minister, HWPRAD, MOHLTC
Shenda Tanchak, Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, College of Physiotherapists of Ontario
Dorianne Sauvé, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Physiotherapy Association