

Practice Advisory

Atlantic Virtual Physiotherapy Under the Inter-Jurisdictional MOU

1. Purpose

This Practice Advisory sets out regulatory expectations for physiotherapists who provide virtual physiotherapy services under the Atlantic Virtual Care Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The Advisory supports consistent application of the MOU and clarifies registrant obligations when providing virtual physiotherapy across participating Atlantic jurisdictions.

2. Definitions

For the purposes of this Practice Advisory:

Primary Provincial Regulatory Authority

means the physiotherapy regulatory authority in the province where the physiotherapist is registered and physically located at the time virtual physiotherapy services are provided under the Atlantic Virtual Care Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Secondary Provincial Regulatory Authority

means the physiotherapy regulatory authority in the province where the patient is physically located at the time virtual physiotherapy services are provided under the MOU.

Participating Jurisdiction

means a province whose physiotherapy regulatory authority is a signatory to the Atlantic Virtual Care MOU at the time the virtual physiotherapy services are provided.

Longitudinal Care Relationship

means an ongoing course of care that is coordinated and managed by a provincial Health Authority or Crown Corporation, where responsibility for care planning, continuity, and escalation rests within that publicly managed system.

Virtual Physiotherapy

means the delivery of physiotherapy services using information and communication technologies where the physiotherapist and patient are not physically co-located.

3. Authority

This Practice Advisory is issued under the authority of Prince Edward Island College of Physiotherapy. Registrants are expected to be familiar with and comply with this Advisory when providing virtual physiotherapy within the scope of the MOU. Failure to do so may result in regulatory action.

4. Scope and Application

This Practice Advisory applies **only** where all of the following conditions are met:

- The physiotherapist is physically located in a participating Atlantic jurisdiction (see section 8 for current list of participating);
- The patient is physically located in another participating Atlantic jurisdiction at the time of care;
- The virtual physiotherapy is provided as part of a **longitudinal care relationship** that is managed by a provincial Health Authority or Crown Corporation in the physiotherapist's primary province; and
- The physiotherapist is registered and in good standing with their primary provincial regulatory authority.

This Advisory does **not** apply to:

- Private virtual physiotherapy services;
- Virtual care provided outside a Health Authority or Crown Corporation–managed care pathway; or
- Virtual physiotherapy provided to patients located outside participating jurisdictions.

5 Regulatory Effect of the MOU

Where the conditions of the MOU are met, the practice of physiotherapy is deemed to have occurred in the physiotherapist's **primary province**, and the primary provincial regulatory authority retains regulatory oversight.

This Advisory does not establish a general right to practise virtual physiotherapy across provincial boundaries and does not eliminate registration or licensing requirements outside the limited scope of the MOU.

6. Registrant Expectations

When providing virtual physiotherapy under the MOU, registrants must:

1. **Adhere to the MOU**
Comply with all terms and conditions set out in the Atlantic Virtual Care MOU.
2. **Disclose Regulatory Information**
Clearly disclose to the patient their primary province of practice and regulatory authority.
3. **Confirm Patient Location**
Confirm that the patient is physically located within a participating jurisdiction at the time virtual care is provided.
4. **Practise Within Scope and Competence**
Practise only within their individual scope of practice, competencies, and any employer-imposed limitations applicable in the primary province.



5. **Comply with Applicable Standards and Ethics**
Practise in accordance with the standards of practice, code of ethics, practice advisories, guidelines, and policies of their primary regulatory authority.
6. **Maintain Appropriate Insurance Coverage**
Ensure that professional liability insurance covers virtual physiotherapy services provided under the MOU.
7. **Plan for Adverse or Unexpected Events**
Have an appropriate process in place to respond to adverse or unexpected events during virtual sessions, including emergency escalation where necessary.
8. **Use Virtual Care Appropriately**
Take reasonable steps to ensure that virtual physiotherapy and the technology used are appropriate for the patient and the clinical situation.
9. **Address Communication and Language Barriers**
Take reasonable steps to ensure that language or communication barriers do not negatively affect the quality of care or patient understanding.
10. **Exercise Clinical Judgment**
Determine whether virtual physiotherapy is appropriate and safe in the circumstances, and take appropriate action if it is not, including postponing, modifying, or redirecting care to an in-person or alternative setting.
11. **Protect Privacy and Confidentiality**
Ensure the confidentiality, privacy, and security of personal health information and meet informed consent and record-keeping requirements in accordance with applicable legislation, standards, and policies.
12. **Comply with Applicable Legislation**
Be aware of and comply with all applicable legislation in both the primary and secondary provinces. In the event of inconsistency, the legislation of the primary province governs.

7. Limitations

For clarity:

- This Practice Advisory applies only to virtual physiotherapy delivered within the specific context described in Section 3.
- The MOU does not establish operational pathways for ordering screening or diagnostic tests in another jurisdiction.
- Registrants who do not meet the requirements of the MOU may be subject to separate registration or licensing requirements in the jurisdiction where the patient is located.
- Nothing in this Advisory supersedes legislative authority or statutory responsibilities of any regulatory authority.

8. Jurisdiction-Specific Registration Implications

The impact of this MOU on existing temporary or cross-border registration categories varies by jurisdiction. Registrants are responsible for reviewing jurisdiction-specific guidance issued by their regulatory authority regarding whether existing registrations remain required for their practice.

9. Participating Jurisdictions (to be updated as changes occur)

Province	Authority	Effective Date
Nova Scotia	Nova Scotia Regulator of Physiotherapy (NSRPT)	Jan 30, 2026
Prince Edward Island	Prince Edward Island College of Physiotherapy (PEICPT)	Jan 30, 2026
Newfoundland & Labrador	Newfoundland and Labrador College of Physiotherapists (NLCP)	February 25, 2026
New Brunswick/Nouveau-Brunswick	College of Physiotherapists of New Brunswick/Collège des Physiothérapeutes du Nouveau-Brunswick (CPNB)	March 19, 2026

Appendix A

Atlantic Virtual Physiotherapy (MOU) Quick Check

Atlantic Virtual Physiotherapy (MOU)

Before providing virtual physiotherapy, confirm **all** of the following:

Eligibility

- I am physically located in a **participating Atlantic province**
- My patient is physically located in **another participating Atlantic province**
- The care is part of **ongoing care managed by a Health Authority or Crown Corporation**
- I am registered and in good standing in my **primary province**

Disclosure & Location

- I have told the patient which province and regulator I am registered with
- I have confirmed the patient's **physical location today**

Practice & Safety

- This care is within my scope, competence, and any employer limits
- Virtual care is appropriate and safe for this patient today
- I have a plan for emergencies or unexpected events

Insurance & Privacy

- My liability insurance covers virtual care under the MOU
- Privacy, consent, and record-keeping requirements are met

Registration

- I have checked whether I still need any **temporary or cross-border registration** for my practice