



STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

PRACTICE STANDARD TITLE:

Infection Prevention and Control

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CATEGORY: Practice Standard

AUTHORITY: Regulated Health Professions Act

Standard: Physiotherapists are required to comply with infection prevention and control measures to prevent harm caused by infection to clients, health care providers, themselves and others.

Physiotherapists shall:

- Acquire the education, training and competencies to apply infection prevention and control techniques (e.g. when dry needling, suctioning, etc.).
- Comply with routine hand hygiene practices using alcohol-based cleaner, or hand washing using soap and water before and after client contact and in accordance to the *Prince Edward Island Health and Wellness Infection Prevention and Control for Health Care Office/Clinics* and Public Health Agency of Canada.
- Assess the risk of exposure to body substances or contaminated surfaces before any healthcare activity and select personal protective equipment based on the assessed risk:
 - Wear gloves when touching blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, mucous membranes, nonintact skin, or undiagnosed rashes. Gloves must be used only once and be discarded after each client and/or procedure. Remove after use, before touching non-contaminated items and surfaces, and before going to another client. Perform Hand hygiene immediately after removal.
 - Wear facial protection during activities that are likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions, and excretions.
 - Wear gown to protect skin and prevent soiling of clothing during activities that are likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions, and excretions. Remove soiled gown as soon as possible and perform hand hygiene after removal.
- Ensure procedures for the routine cleaning and disinfection of environmental and other frequently touched surfaces are completed (e.g. exercise equipment)
- Ensure sufficient linens including gowns, towels, sheets, and pillowcases are available to maintain a high standard of hygiene.
- Clean, disinfect, and re-process re-usable equipment in accordance to manufacture’s re-processing instructions before use with another client. Personnel engaged in equipment reprocessing must have documented training.
- Use care when handling needles, scalpels and other sharp instruments or devices. Dispose of used needles/sharps in puncture resistant sharps containers with lids.
- Use and promote respiratory etiquette to minimize transmission of respiratory infections. This includes covering nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing with tissues or mask, dispose of used tissues and masks, and perform hand hygiene after contact with respiratory secretions.

In the best interest of clients and health care providers, physiotherapists are strongly encouraged to have their immunizations up to date and documented.