



Prince Edward Island
College of Physiotherapy

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

PRACTICE STANDARD TITLE:

Spinal Manipulation

DATE CREATED: October 2020

DATE APPROVED: November 1, 2020

DATE REVISED:

CATEGORY: Reserved Activities

AUTHORITY: Regulated Health Professions Act

Definition: Spinal Manipulation is a passive, high velocity, low amplitude thrust applied to a joint beyond its physiological limit of motion, but within its anatomical limit, with the intent to restore optimal motion, function and/or reduce pain.

Standard: Spinal manipulation is a reserved activity (moving the joints of the spine beyond the individuals usual physiological range of motion using a fast, low amplitude thrust) under the Regulated Health Professions Act. Those members who wish to perform spinal manipulation are required to apply for special authorization to perform this reserved activity.

Physiotherapists authorized to perform spinal manipulation are expected to meet the competencies outlined in the *Spinal Manipulation Competency Profile for Physical Therapists* produced by the College of Physical Therapists of Alberta (2008) and within the competencies (knowledge, skills and abilities) for which they have been educated and trained. Physiotherapists shall:

- Advise clients of the benefits and risks associated with the use of manipulation and obtain informed consent in accordance to the *Core Standards of Practice for Physiotherapists in Canada*.
- Have a critical event management plan in place and ensure staff are educated on the event response processes.
- Not delegate spinal manipulation to another person who does not have legal authority to perform the act.