

NOTICE FROM THE ORDRE DES PHYSIOTHÉRAPEUTES DU QUÉBEC

THE PARTICIPATION OF A THIRD PERSON IN PHYSIOTHERAPY TREATMENT

University training qualifies physiotherapists notably to determine the impact of musculoskeletal, neurological or cardiorespiratory dysfunction on a client's functional performance. Physiotherapists are recognized for their competence to conduct a physiotherapy assessment, determine the approach to treatment and perform professional acts as part of an ongoing process of therapy and evaluation within a structured, organized and personalized clinical framework, with a view to meeting set objectives.

Physiotherapists distinguish themselves by their high level of knowledge of the musculoskeletal, neurological and cardiorespiratory systems, as well as by their approach and the scientific dimension they bring to their practice. Physiotherapists, in the practice of their profession, may have to enlist the collaboration of other persons to perform acts that come within the scope of physiotherapy treatment, when the client's condition requires it. (Sections 3.01.07., 3.03.02. Code of ethics of physiotherapists). Intrinsic to the science of physiotherapy is the need to teach clients, in the presence of their family if necessary, to take over their own care as soon as possible.

The physiotherapist may also teach an act to a family member or to a person who is available to perform this act in particular situations for a specific case, when the interests of the client require it, for example, when treatment at home is required. (Sections 3.01.07., 3.03.01. Code of ethics of physiotherapists).

Physiotherapists must:

- evaluate a client, determine a treatment plan, specify the frequency of treatments required by the client's condition and identify the precautions that must be taken before teaching any act whatsoever to a third person (Section 3.02.03., 3.03.02. Code of ethics of physiotherapists);
- point out to the third person, his or her role and its limitations;
- provide the third person with precise instructions concerning the program specifically worked out to meet the needs of the client's condition, *after* having received written permission from the client to disclose any information of a confidential nature obtained in the practice of their profession; (Sections 3.06.01., 3.06.02. Code of ethics of physiotherapists);
- teach the third person the chosen technique, clearly indicating the important parameters, namely the affected region, the position in which to place the patient, and the duration of treatment;
- make sure that the third person has properly learned the technique he or she has been taught before applying it to the client;
- agree on an effective means of communication with the third person, making sure that the latter understands the importance of communicating with the physiotherapist as soon as he or she notices a change in the client's status or feels insecure about performing one or several of the acts he or she has been taught to perform; (Sections 3.03.01. Code of ethics of physiotherapists);
- ensure adequate supervision with a frequency which allows the physiotherapist to evaluate the impact the treatments provided by the third person have had on the physical status of the client, since the physiotherapist is the only person qualified to evaluate the

impact of physiotherapy treatment;

- ensure that all information relevant to this type of intervention is noted in the client's file; (Section 2.02 c) d) e) h) g) k) m) Regulation respecting record-keeping and the keeping of consulting rooms by physiotherapists of the OPQ).

When physiotherapists determine a treatment plan and sign it, they are responsible for the quality of care provided and the impact of that care on the physical condition of the client.

Adopted at the *Bureau de l'Ordre des physiothérapeutes du Québec* on September 19, 1997.