

Standards of Practice

Concurrent Care

Standard

The physiotherapist collaborates with health-care providers, and others to provide safe, effective, quality, and **concurrent care**, when indicated by the client's health-care needs and preferences.

Expected outcome

Clients can expect that the physiotherapist collaborates effectively with others to promote integrated client-centred care.

Performance expectations

The physiotherapist:

- Inquires about situations where clients may be receiving or considering concurrent treatment from another health-care provider for the same or a related condition.
- Consults with/refers to the appropriate health-care provider when the client's interests and aspects of clients' goals are best addressed by another provider.
- Clearly explains funding implications of concurrent treatment to the client.
- Only participates in concurrent treatment of the same or a related condition when approaches are complementary, clinically indicated, of benefit to clients, and an appropriate use of human/financial resources.
- Identifies, documents, communicates, and manages **risks** of concurrent treatment of the same or related condition, discontinuing concurrent services and documenting when:
 - Approaches conflict
 - There is inefficient use of resources
 - The risks outweigh the benefits to clients
- Communicates the decision to decline or discontinue concurrent treatment to the client providing their rationale for the decision and documents this discussion.

Concurrent treatment or care refers to “the circumstance where more than one health professional (provider) is administering or applying remedies, including medical, surgical or other therapies, to a patient for the same or related disease or injury.”

Risk refers to something that may cause injury or harm or the state of not being protected from injury or harm. Clients encounter risk of harm each time they seek health-care services. Some risks are directly related to assessment procedures and interventions, while others relate to environmental factors or are sector specific.

Related Standards

- Communication
- Funding, Fees, and Billing
- Risk Management and Safety