






PHYSIOTHERAPY SCOPE OF PRACTICE IN ALBERTA

This chart reflects the legislated scope of practice for physiotherapists in Alberta as defined by the Health Professions Act, the Health Professions Restricted Activity Regulation, and the Physical Therapists Profession Regulation. The College of Physiotherapists of Alberta also employs the [‘Is It Physiotherapy?’ Tool](#) to address questions related to scope of practice.

LEGEND

-  Within the scope of physiotherapy practice.
-  Indicates that although these activities could constitute part of a physiotherapist’s practice, they may have limited or no training in the area at entry to practice. The physiotherapist must be able to demonstrate additional post-graduate training in this aspect of practice.
-  RA=Restricted Activity. See the College’s [website](#) for more information about regulatory requirements.
-  Not within physiotherapy scope of practice. Some registrants may be engaging in these activities under the supervision and at the direction of another health provider. When doing so, the service does not constitute physiotherapy.
-  Not within the scope of physiotherapy practice.

 Communicating a Diagnosis	 Therapeutic Exercise
 Ordering Diagnostic Imaging (X-ray, MRI, Ultrasound)	 Ergonomic Assessment, Modification, Education
 Ordering Laboratory Tests	 Use of Hydrotherapy; Electrotherapy; Mechanical, Radiant, and Thermal Energy
 Ordering Electrodiagnostic Testing	 Mobility Aids and Support
 Tracheal Suctioning	 Setting or Casting a Fracture
 Administering Oxygen (when prescribed by an authorized provider)	 Serial Casting for Range of Motion
 Administering a Substance by Inhalation (when prescribed by an authorized provider)	 Reducing a Dislocated Joint
 Taking a Wound Swab	 Providing Psychosocial Supports and Lifestyle Guidances
 Wound Cleansing, Debridement, Dressing	 Medication Administration - Oral and Injection
 Pelvic Health Internal Examination or Treatment (including pessary management)	 Medication Administration - Topical (e.g. wounds, phonophoresis, iontophoresis)
 Point of Care Ultrasound or Real-Time Ultrasound Imaging	 Medication Administration - Cortisone/Steroid and Intramuscular Injection
 Acupuncture	 Medication Administration - Supervising Unregulated Providers
 Dry Needling or Intramuscular Stimulation	 Pharmaceuticals - Medication Prescribing
 Spinal Manipulation	 Pharmaceuticals - Referring
 Soft Tissue Manual Therapy (Massage, PNF, Joint Mobilization)	

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