Private Practice

The World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) advocates that private practice is a right of physical therapists worldwide. Physical therapists as autonomous practitioners should be allowed to engage in private practice, free of restrictions imposed by other professions on how they should practise. Physical therapists in private practice should deliver services to patients/clients within their scope of practice in accordance with national/state/provincial government laws, rules and/or regulations and in accordance with WCPT policies and guidelines.

In keeping with WCPT’s policy statement on standards, it is expected that physical therapists in private practice apply best practice principles in their professional and business/administrative arrangements, in the same way that they do in their clinical practice.

In accordance with WCPT’s ethical principles all business relationships shall be free of avoidable conflicts of interest and ensure the integrity of professional conduct.

WCPT believes that physical therapists in private practice should receive just and equitable remuneration for their services. WCPT encourages its member organisations to support physical therapists in private practice to achieve this remuneration and, where appropriate, negotiate on their behalf with funders. Further, a physical therapist's practice ownership should be recognised and reflect the full extent of their investment commitment in the practice and any risk associated with the commitment.

Glossary

Scope of practice — is a statement describing physical therapy within the context of the regulatory environment and the evidence base for practice within a jurisdiction. Scopes of practice are dynamic and evolving in accordance with changes in the evidence base, policy and needs of service users. WCPT describes the parameters of a physical therapist’s scope of practice in its description of physical therapy and member organisations set out the agreed scope of practice in their countries.

1. Advanced scope of practice — physical therapists may develop a scope of practice beyond the usual and customary physical therapist’s practice as a result of attaining significant additional education, professional experience, and/or enhanced competencies. Specialisation is an example of advanced scope of practice.
References


Useful resources

- **American Physical Therapy Association**
  - Impact: newsletter of the private practice section with archive of articles
  - Institute of private practice physical therapy: mission is to foster understanding, learning, research and related projects to advance private practice physical therapy
  - Opening a private practice presentation

- **Australia Physiotherapy Association**
  - InPractice 2025 report - commissioned to look at the strategic drivers that will shape the health industry in the coming decades and the key ingredients that private physical therapy businesses must incorporate to thrive in the future.
  - APA standards for physiotherapy practices

- **Canadian Physiotherapy Association**
  The private practice division has a toolbox of information covering:
  - Benchmarking & strategic planning
  - Business & practice management
  - Human resources
  - Leadership
  - Legal and finance
  - Marketing and branding

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