

## **Health & Care Professions Council - U.K**

### **Standards for Prescribing**

Department of Health announces on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2012 that medicines legislation would be changed to allow appropriately trained Chiropodists / Podiatrists and Physiotherapists to act as Independent Prescribers.

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Sir

**Sub: Definition for Physiotherapy - Clinical Establishment Act- Objection to current definition and Suggestion from Indian Association of Physiotherapists- Letter submitted regarding**

#### **Ref. Notification through website calling for suggestions**

Having come to understand that Government of India is proposing to come out with "National Council for Clinical establishment Act" we the members of Indian Association of Physiotherapists and Physiotherapy community in India wish to extend our sincere thanks to Govt of India especially to Ministry of Health for taking constructive efforts to bring in regulations in clinical practice. We would like express our concern towards the proposed Definition for "Physiotherapy" in the Draft "National Council for Clinical establishment Act" which is not appropriate and we the "Indian Association of Physiotherapists" on behalf of Physiotherapy community in India (consisting of more than 40000 registered Physiotherapists in our Association) submit our strong objections to the current definition for Physiotherapy.

The current definition found in the draft is

**“A physiotherapy centre is a Paraclinical establishment providing, physical therapy services by a physiotherapist to patients with a recent prescription or referral from a licensed medical doctor (physician/surgeon). After three weeks or earlier if indicated a review and re-prescription from the treating medical doctor is required for continuing physical therapy services”.**

The term “ParaClinical” is a new terminology used address Physiotherapists / Physiotherapy which is absolutely incorrect.

**Physiotherapy being a part of a system of Modern Medicine and widely known as safe alternate to “drugless Therapy”, and this noble system of Medicine (Physiotherapy) should be made easily available / accessible to common public and there should not be any preconditions for them to access to the Physiotherapy treatment / Physiotherapist.**

**Our justifications are as follows**

**Point No.1:** As per the WHO definition Physiotherapists are classified as “Health Professionals” and Independent in nature and not “Para medical” or “Para Clinical”. (Ref WHO Classification of Health Workers –ISCO Code: 2264). Hence to match with International Standards of Practice Physiotherapy should be termed as Independent professional.

**Point No.2:** As per “Health & Care Professions Council – HCPC-United Kingdom” / “Standards for Prescribing”

**“Department of Health announces on 12th July 2012 that medicines legislation would be changed to allow appropriately trained Chiropodists / Podiatrists and Physiotherapists to act as Independent Prescribers”.**

Similar status is found in the Practice regulations of Physiotherapists in USA, Australia and Canada. Hence Indian Physiotherapy Practice Regulation should also be enacted in similar line with International pattern of Proscription and Practice and not below.

**Point No.3:** As per the **Thirty First Report on “Paramedical and Physiotherapy Central Councils Bill-2007**, presented to the Rajya Sabha on 21st October, 2008,laid on the table of lok sabha on 21st October, 2008

**Please refer the following recommendations by the “Parliamentary Committee for Health, Govt of India”:-**

Para: 9.46 -The Committee has given deep thought to all the views and opinions aired before it by all concerned. Voluminous material relating to both national and international arena placed before it has also received full attention of the Committee. The fact that physiotherapy education over the years has made significant advancements and has evolved as a distinct profession seems to be well established. This is strengthened by the considered opinion of Ministry of Law that physiotherapy profession should not be equated with the paramedical professions.

Para: 9.47 - The Committee also takes note of the fact as mentioned by the representative of the Ministry that in USA, physiotherapy profession has reached a stage where these professionals can practise independently. Not only this, in some of the international Acts, it has been specifically provided that physiotherapists having the required experience can give physiotherapy treatment without a referral. These Acts also confer upon a physiotherapist the right to practise with or without referral governed by the circumstances of the case.

**Point No.4:**

As per Delhi State Physiotherapy Council Act

“Physiotherapy” means physiotherapeutic system of medicine which includes examination, treatment, advice and instructions to any persons preparatory to or for the purpose of or in connection with movement dysfunction, bodily malfunction, physical disorder, disability, healing and pain from trauma and disease, physical and mental conditions using physical agents including exercise, mobilization, manipulation, mechanical and electrotherapy, activity and devices or diagnosis, treatment and prevention.

(Reference: <http://delhiassembly.nic.in/aspfile/billspassed/141997.htm>)

2. As per Maharashtra State OTPT Council Act:

"Physiotherapy" means a branch of modern medical science which includes examination, assessment, interpretation, physical diagnosis, planning and execution of treatment and advice to any person for the purpose of preventing, correcting, alleviating and limiting dysfunction, acute and chronic bodily malfunction including life saving measures via chest physiotherapy in the intensive care units, curing physical disorders or disability, promoting physical

fitness, facilitating healing and pain relief and treatment of physical and psychosomatic disorders through modulating physiological and physical response using physical agents, activities and devices including exercise, mobilization, manipulations, therapeutic ultrasound, electrical and thermal agents and electrotherapy for diagnosis, treatment and prevention.

(Reference: <http://www.msotptcouncil.com/OTPTActs.aspx>)

3) As per Tamilnadu State Physiotherapy Council Government Order

“Physiotherapy” means health care profession which includes examination, treatment, advice and instructions to any person preparatory to or for the purpose of or in connection with movement dysfunction, bodily malfunction, physical disorder, disability, healing and pain from trauma and disease, physical and mental conditions using physical agents including exercise, mobilization, manipulation, mechanical and electrotherapy, activity and devices or diagnosis, treatment and prevention.

Please Ref: G.O. (Ms) No.338 Health and Family Welfare Department, Dated 16.10.2008, with Amendments G.O (Ms) No.281 Dated 09-09-2009, of Health and Family Welfare (Z1) Department

4) As per Gujarat State Physiotherapy Council Act

“Physiotherapy” means a branch of modern medical science which includes examination, assessment, interpretation, physical diagnosis, planning and execution of treatment and advice to any person for the purpose of preventing, correcting, alleviating and limiting dysfunction, acute and chronic bodily malfunction, including life saving measures via chest physiotherapy in the intensive care units curing physical disorders and disabilities, curing physical disorders or disability, promoting physical fitness, facilitating healing and pain relief and treatment of physical and psychosomatic disorders through modulating physiological and physical response using physical agents, activities and devices including exercises, mobilization, manipulations, mechanical, electrical and thermal agents and electrotherapy including therapeutic ultrasound, therapeutic laser, electrical therapy including electrophysiology for diagnosis, treatment and prevention;

**Point No-5. As per Government of India- Quality Council of India, Survey Report & Recommendations Of Clinical Establishments – Page-11**

Physiotherapy Definition: The treatment of disease, bodily defects, or bodily weaknesses by physical remedies, as massage, special exercises, etc., rather than by drugs.

(Reference: <http://clinicalestablishments.nic.in/WriteReadData/384>)

**Point No-6. As per Government of India- Quality Council of India, Survey Report & Recommendations Of Clinical Establishments – Page-15**

Physiotherapy Clinics are Categorized as “**individual practitioners Clinic**” with 2 Clinics in Himachal Pradesh, 13 Clinics in Pondicherry, 28 Clinics in Delhi.

Physiotherapy is identified as “Drugless Therapy” by quality control experts of govt of India. If such is the case, why should it be restricted as referral system of practice?

Hence all the above statutory definition and points confirms the independent Status of Physiotherapy / Physiotherapy Clinics. Hence referral practice by Licence Medical Practitioner for physiotherapy is incorrect and it should be deleted or changed.

Kindly take note of the above Points mentioned make necessary changes in the draft and modify the Definition, Referral System and Scope of Physiotherapy in the Clinical Establishment Act” to have an Independent right to Practice as per international Standard rehabilitation and Physiotherapy services in our Country. It is appropriate to constitute an expert committee consisting of Senior Physiotherapists from various Institutes (Clinical and Teaching Institutes – both Government as well as Private) In India and rectify the errors and then take it to higher level for establishment or enactment.

Experts of Indian Association of Physiotherapists are willing and ready to incorporate suggestions make corrections and changes in the proposed “Clinical Establishment Act” to the full purpose of this Bill to extend this Noble Physiotherapy profession and services to reach the all citizens to India without any restriction.

Looking forward your favourable consideration and cooperation.

Thanking you in advance.

Yours Sincerely,

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