

Policy: Patient Safety

Introduction

A high level of professional conduct and safe and ethical practice is expected of trainees, all of whom are entering the program as very experienced clinicians. As registered practitioners and members of the Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA), trainees are expected to practice according to the Australian Standards for Physiotherapy and the APA Code of Conduct, both in the workplace and during training sessions.

Supervision

Patient safety is an absolute priority of the College. Facilitators will ensure patient safety during the clinical component of the face-to-face sessions when practice is directly supervised.

Facilitators will ensure that trainees are well prepared before attempting any new high risk assessment or treatment techniques and ensure that these are only executed at an appropriate stage of the training.

When a trainee is experiencing difficulty or performing below an expected and defined level the facilitator will intervene appropriately.

Assessment

This is also the case during the clinical exam process when an examiner is obliged to intervene if they consider that patient safety is likely to be compromised.

Ethical Practice

Trainees, in practising according to the Code of Conduct, will be conscious of all ethical issues related to their scope of practice.

Formal written consent will be obtained from all patients volunteering to be assessed and treated by trainees either during training or at examination. A standard form will be utilised.

Professional Indemnity

All trainees and facilitators are required to have Professional Indemnity Insurance Arrangements (PII) in place that cover all practice during training. Trainees are advised to check with their insurer that their level of cover is appropriate for all anticipated activities. Trainees who have PII arrangements through their employer may find that they are not covered for training or exams outside the workplace or in another jurisdiction. It is the trainee's responsibility to ensure their arrangements are adequate and take out additional cover as required.

The College does not provide professional indemnity insurance.

Complaints Management

Should a patient wish to make a complaint following assessment or treatment by a trainee they will have the opportunity to speak confidentially with either the facilitator, if it is during training or with an examiner, if the complaint arises out of the final exam.

If the patient is not satisfied that their complaint has been addressed they will be advised to report it to the appropriate statutory authority in that jurisdiction e.g. Health Complaints Commissioner or physiotherapy registration board.

Reporting

Facilitators and examiners are obliged to report any concerns regarding patient safety to the Board of Censors.

The Board of Censors will refer any matters that require consideration with regard to curriculum or program delivery to the Program Advisory Group.

Details of all complaints will be recorded and reported to the Board of Censors.

Any instances of perceived professional misconduct will be reported directly to the Physiotherapy Registration Board.

The Board of Censors will, in keeping with APA complaints management policy, report any concerns they have regarding injurious or prejudicial conduct to the Association's National Professional Standards Panel.

The Board of Censors will report annually to the College Council regarding issues of patient safety, patient complaints and trainee professional misconduct including a nil report.

Related Documents

- Australian Standards for Physiotherapy
- APA Code of Conduct
- APA National Professional Standards Committee Regulations and Procedures
- What to do if a complaint is made against you – Information for APA members