

# Practice Standard- Professional Collaboration

Approved: June 2012

Revised: N/A

## Definition

Collaboration: To work together, especially in a joint intellectual effort; the concurrent treatment of a patient/client by a member and another healthcare professional.

Concurrent Treatment: The circumstance where more than one healthcare professional is administering or applying remedies to a patient/client for the same or related disease, injury or for the treatment of unrelated diseases or injury where the treatment of one disease or injury could affect the treatment of the other.

## Intent

Recognizing that inter-professional collaboration is a necessary and increasing trend in health care which the RHPA actively promotes, to facilitate appropriate care and assessment/examination or treatment of patient/client by ensuring members comply with their obligations relating to inter-professional collaboration.

## Objectives

- To ensure that members and the public are aware of the benefits of professional collaboration between a member and another healthcare professional.
- To promote professional collaboration whenever it would benefit the patient/client.
- To ensure members are aware of their obligations relating to professional collaboration.

## Description of Standard

Concurrent treatment of a patient/client by a member and another healthcare professional may be beneficial. However, unless concurrent treatment is provided appropriately, concerns such as the following may arise:

- The treatments provided to the patient/client for the same or related conditions may inadvertently counteract or interfere with each other;
- Conflicting advice and/or information may be provided to the patient/client;

- The member may not be able to determine the impact of his or her treatment intervention on the patient/client;
- Issues of confidentiality and privacy and patient/client control over their personal health information can arise; and
- The concurrent treatment may result in an unethical or inefficient use of healthcare resources.

### **Standard Statement**

A member will only provide concurrent care when, in his or her professional judgment, the treatment is required, appropriate and compatible with the treatment approach of the other treating professional and the care does not constitute an unethical or inefficient use of healthcare resources.

### **Performance Expectations:**

A member demonstrates the standard by:

#### 1. Providing concurrent treatment in circumstances where the treatment:

- is appropriate to the needs of the patient/client;
- is complementary to the treatment provided by the other healthcare professional;
- is provided following consultation with the other healthcare professional whenever possible<sup>1</sup>; and
- is coordinated with the other healthcare professional whenever possible.

#### 2. Not providing concurrent treatment in circumstances where:

- the other healthcare professional has a conflicting treatment approach or patient/client care objective; or
- the kinesiology services are an unethical or inefficient duplication of healthcare services.

#### 3. In circumstances where, in his or her judgment, the concurrent treatment is unnecessary, clearly communicating this decision to the patient/client.

#### 4. Ensuring that the funding mechanism that is paying for the care permits more than one healthcare professional to provide treatment for the patient/client and obtaining informed consent if it does not. However, the patient/client may choose to pay for the treatment themselves should the funding mechanism not permit more than one healthcare professional to provide treatment.

#### 5. Not commenting on other health professionals' qualifications or services other than to provide professional opinions that are necessary in the circumstances in a respectful manner.

---

<sup>1</sup> Any consultation with other health practitioners must be done in accordance with the *Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA)* and confidentiality obligations. A patient has the right to refuse consent for the sharing of information (the lock box concept). However, *PHIPA* also permits the use of implied consent to authorize such consultation in appropriate circumstances.

## **Notation**

In the event of any inconsistency between this standard and any legislation that governs the practice of members, the legislation governs.