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**Subject: Physiotherapy Scope of Practice Review**

Dietitians of Canada (DC) is pleased to have the opportunity to review and respond to the scope of practice review application for the profession of physiotherapy. True interprofessional collaboration, supported by professionals working to their full competencies, is strongly supported by DC. Improvements in the quality of patient care, as well as benefits to the health system, result from professionals working collaboratively.

As the professional association representing registered dietitians (RDs), we have a particular interest in the nutrition-related aspects of the application. Nutrition is referenced on page 18 and in Appendix A page 15. Physiotherapists are recommending that the profession be authorized to order certain laboratory tests, specifically pre-albumin, to assess nutritional status as related to wound healing. Pre-albumin is one piece of information used in assessing nutritional status, and can provide valuable information on the protein status of the individual. Hydration status and inflammatory processes affect pre-albumin and other blood values. DC supports the ability of physiotherapists to order relevant laboratory tests. We assume that any indications of poor nutritional status related to wound healing would be handled in a collaborative interprofessional manner, and that the RD would provide expertise in nutrition assessment and interventions.

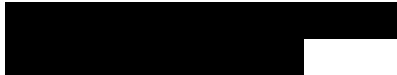
Nutrition is also referenced on page 27, for patients with arthritic conditions awaiting surgeon consult, physiotherapists can provide system navigation to appropriate others, including the RD for nutrition assessment and care plan. We are supportive of this approach to allow referrals among health professionals for collaborative care.

Physiotherapy, dietetics, and other professions have noted the need for changes to The Public Hospitals Act to support interprofessional collaboration and eliminate delays in patient treatment. Expanding the list of professionals authorized to order diagnostic and treatment procedures within the hospital setting would improve continuity of care as well as overall system efficiency and effectiveness.

Dietitians of Canada commends HPRAC for initiating scope of practice review enable interprofessional collaboration, and supports changes to regulated health professions that will result in safe, effective patient care.



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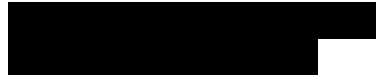
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