



**PRE-INDUCTION SEMINAR FOR
PHYSIOTHERAPY GRADUANDS**

**PROFESSIONAL CODE OF
ETHICS/PRACTICE**

THIRD LECTURE

COURSE OUTLINE:

- 1. PROFESSIONAL AUTONOMY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**
- 2. PROFESSIONAL ATTRIBUTES**
- 3. PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**
- 4. THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**

PROFESSIONAL AUTONOMY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Expectations of a Registrant:

Registrant must:

- (a) be able to practice within the legal and ethical boundaries of their profession.
 - Understand what is required of you by the Board (MRTB).
 - Understand the need to respect, and so far as possible uphold, the rights, dignity and autonomy of every patient including their role in the diagnostic and therapeutic process.
- (b) be able to practice in a non-discriminatory manner.
 - Must render services irrespective of culture, creed, race, political/religious affiliations or social status, e.t.c.
- (c) be able to maintain confidentiality and obtain informed consents.
- (d) be able to exercise a professional duty of care.
- (e) Know the limits of your practice and when to seek advice.
 - Be able to assess a situation, determine the nature and severity of the problem and call upon the required knowledge and experience to deal with the problem.
 - Be able to initiate resolution of problems and be able to exercise personal initiative.
- (f) recognize the need for effective self-management of workload and be able to practice accordingly.
- (g) understand the obligation to maintain fitness to practice.
 - Understand the importance of caring for themselves, including their health.

PROFESSIONAL ATTRIBUTES

Registrant must:

- (a) be able to work, where appropriate, in partnership with other professionals, support staff, patients and their relatives and carers.

- (b) be able to contribute effectively to work undertaken as part of a multidisciplinary team.
- (c) Understand the need for effective communication throughout the care of the patient.
 - Understand the need to build and sustain professional relationship as both an independent practitioner and collaboratively as a member of a team.
 - Understand the need to engage patients and carers in planning and evaluating diagnostics, treatments and interventions to meet their needs and goals.
 - Be able to demonstrate effective and appropriate skills in communication, advice, instruction and professional opinion to colleagues, patients and carers.
 - Be able to select and use appropriate forms of verbal and non-verbal communication with patients and carers.
 - Understand the need to provide patients and carers with the information necessary to enable them to make informed decisions.
- (d) know the professional and personal scope of their practice and be able to make referrals.
- (e) be able to refuse to treat a patient, if following assessment such refusal is deemed to be in the patient's best interest and particularly when such treatment is contra-indicated.
- (f) keep himself informed of development within his profession.
- (g) at all times respect the rights and dignity of the patient.
 - A medical Rehabilitation Therapist must be considerate, courteous, empathic, patient, be of good character, e.t.c.
 - Respect patient's privacy – examinations and treatment require a private environment. Care should be taken about discussions being overhead.
 - Address patient by the name of their choice.
 - Inform your patient the role of any Physiotherapist involved in his care.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Registrant must:

- (a) co-operate with one another to maintain and enhance the standards of his profession.

- (b) report any unethical, incompetent or illegal practice to the appropriate professional authorities' i. e. the Board (MRTB) or your professional body.
- (c) support and participate in research to improve standards of patient care.
- (d) not endorse or promote the sale of goods related to the treatment of patients while in clinical practice.
- (e) not advertise for the purpose of obtaining patients or promoting their own professional advantage, but notification of practice arrangement in the press is permissible.
- (f) registrant may use the media to inform the public of practice arrangements and validated qualifications from time to time.
- (g) registrant may write to registered Medical Practitioners and relevant organizations in order to draw their attention to his name, address and qualifications or to the fact that his services are available.
- (h) Contribute to the planning and development of services, which enable individuals to achieve optimum health.

THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Identification and Assessment of Health and Social Care needs.

Registrant must:

- (a) be able to gather appropriate information regarding patient's symptoms.
- (b) be able to use appropriate assessment techniques (subjective and objective assessment).
- (c) be able to undertake or arrange clinical investigations as appropriate.
- (d) have good analytical skills – must be able to analyze and evaluate information collected.

Essential skills a Registrant must possess for safe and effective practice:

- (a) Research skill.

- (b) Good reasoning skill.
- (c) Problem-solving skill.
- (d) Good listening skill.
- (e) Good analytical skill.
- (f) Ability to formulate appropriate management plans.
- (g) Ability to draw on appropriate skills and knowledge, in order to make sound professional judgment.

Formulation and delivery of plans and strategy for meeting Health and Social Care needs.

Registrant must:

- (a) be able to use research, reasoning and problem-solving skills to determine appropriate actions.
 - Recognize the value of research to the systematic evaluation of practice.
 - Be able to conduct evidence-based practice and evaluate practice systematically.
 - Be aware of methods commonly used in health care research.
 - Be able to demonstrate a logical and systematic approach to problem solving.
 - Be able to evaluate research.
 - Recognize the need to discuss with the patients.
 - Be able to explain the rationale for the use of Physiotherapy interventions and be able to form a diagnosis on the basis of Physiotherapy assessment.
- (b) be able to draw on appropriate knowledge and skills, in order to make professional judgment.
 - He must demonstrate a level of skill in the use of information technology appropriate to his profession.
- (c) be able to formulate specific and appropriate management plans including setting of goals.
 - He must understand the requirement to adapt practice to meet the needs of different client groups.

- Be able to set goals (long-term and short-term) and construct specific individual and group physiotherapy programme. The goals must be achievable, realistic, measurable, specific and timed (SMART).
 - Be able to select, plan, implement and manage Physiotherapy treatment aimed at the facilitation and restoration of movement and function.
- (d) be able to conduct appropriate diagnostic or monitoring procedures, treatments or other actions safely and skillfully.
- Understand the need to maintain the safety of both patients and those involved in his care.
 - Ensure patients are well positioned for safe and effective interventions.
 - Be able to deliver and evaluate physiotherapy programmes.
 - Be able to select and apply safe and effective therapeutic exercise, manual therapy and electrotherapies, in order to alleviate patient's symptoms and restore optimum functions.
 - Be able to use mobilization, cardio-respiratory physiotherapy, neuro-therapeutic handling massage techniques, e. t. c.
- (e) be able to maintain adequate records of patient's conditions, treatment and progress.
- Be able to keep accurate and legible records.
 - Must recognize the need to handle these records and other clinical information in accordance with applicable legislation, protocols and guidelines.
 - Your records must be (a) concise (b) legible (c) must be in a logical sequence (d) must contain therapist's signature at the end of each entry (e) correction fluid must not be used (f) must be dated (g) any error must be crossed with a single line and initialed (h) it must be written immediately after the treatment.