**COVID 19 Return to Work Policy**

**May 17, 2020**

**Part 1: CPTBC Guiding principles and assumptions:**

*The following guiding principles and assumptions have been identified as foundational for reintroducing health-care services in the context of COVID-19:*

1. All registrants will follow the guidance, expectations, and direction provided by the PHO.
2. Registrants employed by hospitals, health authorities, and long-term care facilities should refer to guidance provided by their employers and the PHO.
3. The direction in this document pertains to the delivery of care outside of these settings. These include, but are not limited to, private practice clinics, private mobile or community-based practices, and school-based practices.
4. Some services can be safely and effectively provided virtually.
	1. Stride will continue to offer tele-rehabilitation appointments for our clients. Clinicians will choose when to use these services (ie, where appropriate, if feeling unwell, etc).
5. Other services require in-person visits including direct patient care.
	1. These decisions will be made individually by clinicians, as discussed below.
6. College standards apply, regardless of whether services are provided virtually or in-person.
7. Wherever possible, physical distancing will be maintained during the delivery of care.
	1. Stride clinicians will diligently maintain physical distancing where appropriate and where it does not impede the provision of care.
8. In-person services must only proceed when the anticipated benefits of such services outweigh the risks to the patient and the health care provided.
9. The registrant is accountable and is the person best positioned to determine the need for, urgency and appropriateness of in-person services.
10. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) must be used for the safe delivery of in-person services; however, all registrants must also act to conserve PPE through its judicious use.
	1. Stride PPE policy:
		1. When physical distancing
			1. No PPE necessary
			2. Wash hands and all equipment after visit
			3. Wash shoes or wear shoe covers in client’s home
		2. When coming in contact with patients:
			1. Mask
			2. Goggles
			3. Gloves
			4. Handwashing
			5. Dedicated Clothing
			6. Dedicated Work Shoes, cleaned after visit, or shoe covers
		3. Patients displaying symptoms:
			1. We do not recommend clinicians see these patients
			2. If it is unavoidable, clinicians will wear a gown along with the PPE above
11. Registrants must consider if they are the most appropriate health-care provider to address the patient’s needs, referring patients to other members of the health-care team when in the patient’s interest.
12. Registrants must not recommend unproven therapies for treatingCOVID-19.
13. Registrants must not prescribe or offer any COVID-19 treatments or therapies if infectious diseases if not within their scope of practice.
14. Registrants are accountable to provide clear, honest, transparent communication regarding their policies and procedures related to COVID-19.
	1. See website for this policy, as well as links to the CPTBC, WorkSafeBC and CBCBC policies ( www.stridephysio.ca/policies)

**Part 2: CPTBC Prioritization of patient care services:**

*When services resume registrants may face difficult decisions regarding which patients to see and the prioritization of service provision. The registrant is accountable for prioritizing access to in-person services based on clinical judgment and with consideration given to the patient perspective and the referral source. When determining priority for in-person care, registrants should reflect upon the following considerations:*

1. Acuity of the patient’s condition
2. Functional impairment or impact of the condition on health-related quality of life
3. The impact of not receiving services (e.g. potential for emergency department visit or acute care admission, ability to return to/remain at work)
4. Appropriateness of service provision via virtual care
5. Necessity of services which can only be provided in-person
6. Duration of patient wait-times for care
7. At this time, Stride is choosing not to visit clients in residential care, and will be only visiting clients in supportive housing or assisted living if approved by the facility.

**Part 3: CPTBC Ongoing pandemic best practices:**

*Public health officials have indicated that COVID-19 is expected to continue to circulate in the general population for an extended period. As such, ongoing measures to control the spread of the disease are anticipated, including requirements to practise physical distancing of at least two metres (six feet) and increased screening for signs, symptoms and risk factors for COVID-19.*

1. First and foremost, registrants must adhere to the BCCDC’s Infection Prevention and Control for COVID-19: Interim Guidance for Outpatient and Ambulatory Care Settings regarding IPC measures applicable to the practice environment, including PPE use and environmental cleaning best practices to enable safe practice.
	1. See attached
	2. Stride Cleaning Policy
		1. All equipment between client use with disinfecting wipes or spray.
		2. We will wash hands before and after seeing clients, with soap and water, if available, or hand sanitizer, if not.
2. Adherence to all BCCDC and WorkSafeBC guidance regarding occupational health and safety exposure control plans is also required to ensure a safe work environment for staff. This includes robust policies, procedures and organizational cultures that ensure that no one (employees or contractors) associated with the practice attend work when they have symptoms of illness.
	1. Stride Illness Policy:
		1. Clients will be cancelled, seen via tele-rehab services and/or covered by another provider if a clinician is displaying symptoms (e.g. fever, cough, difficulty breathing).
		2. Clinicians are to call 811 if having symptoms and will not go to a hospital or doctor without calling ahead.
		3. If a clinician is required to make essential travel outside of the province or country, they will quarantine themselves for 14 days afterward and inform Stride physiotherapy clients will receive service.
		4. All clinicians will wash hands before and after seeing clients and follow PPE protocols as above.
3. Registrants are reminded that if they are exhibiting signs of COVID-19 or respiratory illness, including cough, runny nose or fever, they ***must not*** provide in-person care and ***should not*** be in attendance at clinics or other practice settings where other staff and patients are present.
4. Registrants must follow BCCDC and WorkSafeBC guidance for self-isolation when an employee is sick with any respiratory illness, support access to primary care provider assessment and testing, and provide sick-leave support where possible until symptoms have resolved and it is safe to return to work.
5. Registrants must implement COVID-19 screening practices for patients:
	1. Patients should also be encouraged to make use of COVID-19 resources by calling 811 or visiting healthlinkbc.ca.
	2. Screen for risk factors and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to attendance at the practice environment.
	3. If patient screening reveals the patient may be at risk of COVID-19, registrants should refer the patient to a COVID-19 testing centre and defer treatment.
	4. Stride Screening policy
		1. Each day, prior to commencing work, clients will be screened via telephone or text message using the following questions:
			1. Have you been tested for or diagnosed with COVID-19? (or, if you just saw them last week, 7 days?)
			2. Have you been in contact with anyone who was tested for or diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days? (or, if you just saw them last week, 7 days?)
			3. Have you been experiencing a cough, fever, or shortness of breath in the last 7 days?
		2. We reserve the right to ***not*** see clients who are having symptoms.
		3. New patients will be asked these questions prior to booking and will also answer them on the intake form.
			1. Any client who answers ‘yes’ to the above questions will be given a later appointment and pre-screened by the treating physiotherapist prior to assessment
6. The College does not expect any registrant to provide treatment unless, in their professional opinion, it is safe to do so for both patients and staff.

***The infection control and COVID-19 contact for Stride Mobile Physiotherapy is DeAnna MacArthur. She can be reached at 778-215-7780 ext. 1 if you have any further concerns.***