

# Private practice

## Policy statement

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# Private practice

World Physiotherapy advocates that private practice is a right of physiotherapists worldwide. Physiotherapists as autonomous practitioners should be allowed to engage in private practice, free of restrictions imposed by other professions on how they should practise.(1) Physiotherapists in private practice should deliver services to patients/clients within their scope of practice in accordance with national/state/provincial government laws, rules and/or regulations and in accordance with WCPT policies and guidelines.

In keeping with World Physiotherapy’s policy statement on standards, it is expected that physiotherapists in private practice apply best practice principles in their professional and business/administrative arrangements, in the same way that they do in their clinical practice. (2)

In accordance with World Physiotherapy’s ethical principles all business relationships shall be free of avoidable conflicts of interest and ensure the integrity of professional conduct. (3)

World Physiotherapy believes that physiotherapists in private practice should receive just and equitable remuneration for their services. World Physiotherapy encourages its member organisations to support physiotherapists in private practice to achieve this remuneration and, where possible, negotiate on their behalf with funders. Further, a physiotherapist’s practice ownership should be recognised and reflect the full extent of their investment commitment in the practice and any risk associated with the commitment.

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**Glossary** (<https://world.physio/resources/glossary>)

**Advanced practice**

**Patient**

**Professional ethics**

**Regulation of the profession**

**Scope of practice**

**Service standards**

**Standards of practice**

Approval, review and related policy information	
<b>Date adopted:</b>	First adopted at the 13th General Meeting of WCPT June 1995. Revised and re-adopted at the 16th General Meeting of WCPT June 2007. Revised and re-adopted at the 17th General Meeting of WCPT June 2011. Revised and re-adopted at the 18th General Meeting of WCPT May 2015. Revised and re-approved at the 19th General Meeting of WCPT May 2019. Revised and re-approved at the 20 <sup>th</sup> General Meeting of WCPT May 2023.
<b>Date for review:</b>	2027
<b>Related World Physiotherapy policies:</b>	World Physiotherapy policy statements <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Autonomy</li><li>• Advanced physiotherapy practice</li><li>• Ethical principles and the responsibilities of physiotherapists and member organisations</li></ul>

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## References

1. World Physiotherapy. Policy statement: Autonomy. London, UK: World Physiotherapy; 2023 [28 Nov 2023]. Available from: <https://world.physio/policy/ps-autonomy>.
2. World Physiotherapy. Policy statement: Standards of physiotherapist practice. London, UK: World Physiotherapy; 2023 [3 Nov 2023]. Available from: <https://world.physio/policy/ps-standards>.
3. World Physiotherapy. Policy statement: Ethical principles and responsibilities of physiotherapists and member organisations London, UK: World Physiotherapy; 2022 [24 Nov 2023]. Available from: <https://world.physio/policy/policy-statement-ethical-responsibilities-and-principles>.

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