

# Protection of title

Policy statement

© World Physiotherapy 2019  
[www.world.physio](http://www.world.physio)





---

# Protection of title

The World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) claims exclusivity to the professional names “physical therapy” and “physiotherapy”. It further asserts that the professional titles “physical therapist” and “physiotherapist” and all abbreviations referring to these titles (eg “PT”, “FT”, “physio”) <sup>1</sup> are the sole preserve of persons who hold qualifications approved by WCPT’s member organisations and/or regulatory bodies.

The professional title and term used to describe the profession’s practice varies and depends largely on the historical roots of the profession in the country of the WCPT member organisation. It is WCPT policy to use the term “physical therapy” or “physical therapist” to cover all these titles, but they may be replaced by WCPT member organisations in favour of those terms officially used by them and their members without any change being implied.

WCPT believes it is in the public interest to protect the professional names and titles as part of national legislation/regulation/recognition. <sup>1,2</sup> This should ensure that that appropriately qualified and licenced / registered physical therapists always have the right to practise as physical therapists. WCPT calls on its member organisations to work with governments to enact legislation/regulation/recognition, where it does not already exist, to protect the public by limiting the use of these titles to appropriately qualified persons.

---

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

**Professional regulation**

**Protection of title**

**Regulated profession**

**Regulatory authority**

<b>Approval, review and related policy information</b>	
<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 approved at the 17th General Meeting of WCPT June 2011. Revised and approved at the 18th General Meeting of WCPT May 2015. Revised and approved at the 19th General Meeting of WCPT May 2019.
<b>Date for review:</b>	2023
<b>Related WCPT policies:</b>	WCPT policy statements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Description of physical therapy</li><li>• Regulation of the physical therapy profession</li><li>• Reciprocity – mutual recognition</li></ul> WCPT guideline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Guideline for the development of a system of legislation/regulation/recognition of physical therapists</li></ul>

---

<sup>1</sup> This includes any translations of physical therapy/physiotherapy and physical therapist/physiotherapist into languages other than English where they equate to the professional requirements to be recognised as such. For a list of professional titles in the countries of WCPT member organisations refer to the appendix.

---

## References

1. World Confederation for Physical Therapy. WCPT guideline for the development of a system of legislation/regulation/recognition of physical therapists. London, UK: WCPT; 2011. [www.wcpt.org/guidelines/regulation-legislation](http://www.wcpt.org/guidelines/regulation-legislation) (Access date 30 August 2019)
2. World Confederation for Physical Therapy. Policy statement: Regulation of the physical therapy profession. London, UK: WCPT; 2019. [www.wcpt.org/policy/ps-regulation](http://www.wcpt.org/policy/ps-regulation) (Access date 30 August 2019)

© World Confederation for Physical Therapy 2019

**Appendix: Recognised professional titles: listed by country**

Country	Titles used
Afghanistan	Physical therapist
	فزيوتراپي
Albania	Physiotherapist / Fizioterapist
Argentina	-Licenciado en Kinesiología y Fisiatría / Licenciado en Terapia Física
	-Licensed in Kinesiology and Physiatry
Australia	Physical therapist
	Physiotherapist
Austria	Physiotherapeut / Physiotherapeutin
	Physiotherapist
Bahamas	Physical therapist
	Physiotherapist
Bangladesh	Physiotherapist
	Prefix Dr. and suffix PT
Barbados	Physical therapist
Belgium	Kinesitherapeut(e) (French) /Kinesitherapeut (Dutch)/ Physiotherapeut (German)
	Physiotherapist
Bermuda	Physical therapist
	Physiotherapist
Bolivia	Fisioterapia y Kinesiología
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Physiotherapist / fizioterapeut
Brazil	Bacharel em Fisioterapia
	Physiotherapist
Bulgaria	Ergotherapist /
	Kinisiterapist / Кинезитерапевт
	Medical rehabilitation / Рехабилитатор
	Physiotherapist
Cambodia	Physical therapist / ការព្យាបាលដោយចលនា
	Physiotherapist
Cameroon	Physiotherapist/ kinésithérapeute
Canada	Physical therapist
	Physiothérapie/ Physiotherapie
	Physiotherapist
Chile	Kinesiologist
	Kinesiólogo
Colombia	Physiotherapist / Fisioterapeuta

Country	Titles used
Congo (Republic of)	Physiotherapist/ kinésithérapeute
Curacao	Fysiotherapie
	Physiotherapist
Czech Republic	Fyzioterapeut
	Physiotherapist
Denmark	Fysioterapeuter / Professionsbachelor i fysioterapi or fysioterapeut
	Physiotherapist
Ecuador	Licenciado en Fisioterapia, Licenciado en Terapia Física
	Physiotherapist, Physical therapist / fisioterapista
Egypt	Physical therapy consultant
	Physical therapy practitioner
	Physical therapy specialist
Estonia	Füsioterapeut
	Physiotherapist
Ethiopia	Physiotherapist
Fiji	Physiotherapist
Finland	Erikoislääkintävoimistelija
	Fysioterapeutti
	Lääkintävoimistelija
	Physiotherapist
France	Masseur - Kinésithérapeute ostéopathe
	Masseur - Kinésithérapeute Rééducateur
	Masseur - Physical therapist
	Masseur-kinésithérapeute diplômé
Germany	Physiotherapeut /Physiotherapeutin
Ghana	Physiotherapist
Greece	Physical therapist
	Physiotherapeftis / Φυσικοθεραπευτής
Guatemala	Physiotherapist / Fisioterapista
Guyana	Physiotherapist
Hong Kong	Physiotherapist / 物理治疗师
Hungary	Physical therapist / Gyógytornász-fizioterapeuta
	Physiotherapist
Iceland	Physical therapist
	Sjúkrapjálfari
India	Physiotherapist
Ireland	Fhisiteripe
	Physiotherapist / Iris Chumann Fhisiteiripigh Chairte na hEireann

Country	Titles used
Israel	Physical therapist
	המטפל פיזית
Jamaica	Physical therapist
	Physiotherapist
	Registered physical therapist
Japan	Physical therapist
	理学療法士
Jordan	Physiotherapist
	Physiotherapy technician
Kenya	Physiotherapist
Korea	Physical therapist
	물리 치료
Latvia	Physiotherapist / Fizioterapeits
Liechtenstein	dipl. Physiotherapeut FH
	dipl. Physiotherapeut HF
	Physiotherapist with diploma
Lithuania	Kinesitherapist
	Kineziterapeutas
Luxembourg	Kinesithérapie/ Kinésithérapie
	Masseur-kinésithérapeute diplômé
	Physiotherapist
Macau	Fisioterapia
	Physical therapist
	物理治療
Malawi	Physiotherapist
Malta	Fizjoterapist
	Physiotherapist
Mauritius	Kinesitherapeut(e)
	Physical therapist
	Physiotherapist
Mexico	Física y Rehabilitación
	Fisioterapia
	Physiotherapist
	Terapia Física
Montenegro	Physiotherapist
Morocco	Physiotherapist/ kinésithérapeute
Namibia	Physiotherapist
Netherlands	Fysiotherapeut
	Physiotherapist

Country	Titles used
New Zealand	Physiotherapist
Niger	Kinesiotherapy/ kinésithérapeute
Nigeria	Physiotherapist
Norway	Fysioterapi
	Physical therapist; Physiotherapist
Pakistan	Physical therapist
	Physiotherapist
Paraguay	Kinesiología
	Physiotherapist
Peru	Medical technologist in physical therapy and rehabilitation / Tecnólogo Médico en Terapia Física y Rehabilitación / Terapeuta Físico / Fisioterapeuta
Philippines	Registered physical therapist / Pisikal Terapist or Pisikal Terapi
Poland	Fizioterapeuta
	Physiotherapist
Portugal	Fisioterapeuta
	Physiotherapist
Puerto Rico	Physical Therapist/ Terapeuta Físico
Romania	Fiziokineioterapeut
	Kineioterapeut
	Physical therapist
Rwanda	Kinesithérapie/ Kinésithérapie
	Physiothérapie/ Physiotherapie
	Physiotherapist
Saudi Arabia	Physical therapist
	Physiotherapist
	الطبيعي العلاج
Senegal	Physiotherapist/ kinésithérapeute
Serbia	Fizioterapeut
	Fizioterapeutski tehnicar
	Physiotherapist
	Visi fizioterapeut
Singapore	Physical therapist
	Physiotherapist
Slovakia	Diplomovaný fyzioterapeut
	Physiotherapist
Slovenia	Diplomirani fizioterapevt (dipl. fiziot.)
	Physiotherapist
South Africa	Physical therapist
	Physiotherapist

Country	Titles used
Spain	Physical therapist / Fisioterapeuta
Sri Lanka	Physiotherapist
St Lucia	Physiotherapy
Suriname	Physical therapist
Sweden	Legitimerad fysioterapeut / Sjukgymnast
	Registered physical therapist
Switzerland	Fisioterapista
	Physiotherapeut / Physiotherapeutin
	Physiothérapeute
	Physiotherapist
Syria	Physical therapist
Taiwan	Physical therapist
	物理治療
Thailand	Physical therapist
	Physiotherapist
	นักกายภาพบำบัด
Trinidad and Tobago	Physiotherapist
Turkey	Fizyoterapist
	Physiotherapist
Uganda	Physiotherapist
Ukraine	Physical therapist
	Specialist of physical rehabilitation
United Arab Emirates	Physiotherapist/ الطبيعى العلاج
United Kingdom	Physical therapist
	Physiotherapist
United States of America	Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)
	Licensed physical therapist
	Physical therapist
	Registered physical therapist
Uruguay	Licenciate in physical therapy
	Licenciada Fisioterapeuta
	Technician in physical therapy
Venezuela	Physiotherapist / Fisioterapeuta
Zambia	Physical therapist
	Physiotherapist
	Physiotherapy technologist
Zimbabwe	Physiotherapist

Data provided by WCPT member organisations