

## 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.

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 in 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 qualified 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

**Professional regulation** — is designed to protect the public interest by ensuring that physical therapists meet (and continue to meet) the standards or requirements for practice. The approach to regulation and the specific regulatory mechanisms vary by jurisdiction and are often provided by laws, regulations, directives or rules set by the regulatory authority. Professional regulation may also be overseen by the profession itself, this is referred to as “self-regulation”.<sup>2</sup>

**Regulated profession** — a profession that may only be practised by individuals who have been certified by the relevant regulatory authority as meeting the standards or requirements for the practice of that profession.<sup>2</sup>

Approval, review and related policy information	
<b>Date adopted:</b>	First adopted at the 13 <sup>th</sup> General Meeting of WCPT June 1995. Revised and re-adopted at the 16 <sup>th</sup> General Meeting of WCPT June 2007. Revised and approved at the 17 <sup>th</sup> General Meeting of WCPT June 2011. Revised and approved at the 18 <sup>th</sup> General Meeting of WCPT May 2015.

<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.

<b>Approval, review and related policy information</b>	
<b>Date for review:</b>	2019
<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>

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## 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 22nd September 2011)
2. World Confederation for Physical Therapy. Policy statement: Regulation of the physical therapy profession. London, UK: WCPT; 2017. [www.wcpt.org/policy/ps-regulation](http://www.wcpt.org/policy/ps-regulation) (Access date 10th March 2017)

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**Appendix: Professional titles recognised in countries of WCPT member organisations: listed by country**

Country	Titles used
Afghanistan	Physical therapist
	Physiotherapist
Argentina	Licensed kinesiologist physiatric
	Licenciado en kinesiología y fysiatria
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)
	Physiotherapist
Bermuda	Physical therapist
	Physiotherapist
Bolivia	
Brazil	Fisioterapia
	Physiotherapist
Bulgaria	Ergotherapist
	Kinisiterapist
	Medical rehabilitation
	Physiotherapist
Cambodia	Physical therapist
	Physiotherapist
Canada	Physical therapist
	Physiothérapie/ Physiotherapie
	Physiotherapist
Chile	Kinesiologist
	Kinesiologo
Colombia	
Curacao	Fysiotherapie
	Physiotherapist
Czech Republic	Fyzioterapeut
	Physiotherapist

Country	Titles used
Denmark	Fysioterapeuter
	Physiotherapist
Ecuador	
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
Ghana	Physiotherapist
Greece	Physical therapist
	Physiotherapeftis
Guyana	Physiotherapist
Hong Kong	Physiotherapist
Hungary	Physical therapist
	Physiotherapist
Iceland	Physical therapist
	Sjúkrapjálfari
India	Physiotherapist
Ireland	Fhisiteripe
	Physiotherapist
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
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
Namibia	Physiotherapist
Netherlands	Fysiotherapeut
	Physiotherapist
New Zealand	Physiotherapist
Nigeria	Physiotherapist
Norway	Fysioterapi
	Physical therapist
Pakistan	Physical therapist
	Physiotherapist

Paraguay	Kinesiología
	Physiotherapist
Peru	
Philippines	Registered physical therapist
Poland	Fizioterapeuta
	Physiotherapist
Portugal	Fisioterapeuta
	Physiotherapist
Romania	Fiziokineioterapeut
	Kineioterapeut
	Physical therapist
Rwanda	Kinesitherapie/ Kinésithérapie
	Physiothérapie/ Physiotherapie
	Physiotherapist
Saudi Arabia	Physical therapist
	Physiotherapist
	الطبيعي العلاج
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
Spain	Physical therapist
Sri Lanka	Physiotherapist
Suriname	Physical therapist
Sweden	Legitimerad sjukgymnast
	Registered physical therapist
Switzerland	Fisioterapista
	Physiotherapeut / Physiotherapeutin
	Physiothérapeute
	Physiotherapist
Syria	Physical therapist

<b>Titles</b>	<b>Country used</b>
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 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	
Zambia	Physical therapist
	Physiotherapist
	Physiotherapy technologist
Zimbabwe	Physiotherapist

### Professional titles recognised in countries of WCPT member organisations: listed by title

<b>Titles</b>	<b>Country using</b>
dipl. Physiotherapeut FH	Liechtenstein
dipl. Physiotherapeut HF	Liechtenstein
Diplomirani fizioterapevt (dipl. fiziot.)	Slovenia
Diplomovaný fyzioterapeut	Slovakia
Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)	United States of America
Ergotherapist	Bulgaria
Erikoislääkintävoimistelija	Finland
Fhisiteripe	Ireland
Física y Rehabilitación	Mexico
Fisioterapeuta	Portugal

<b>Titles</b>	<b>Country using</b>
Fisioterapia	Brazil
	Macau
	Mexico
Fisioterapista	Switzerland
Fiziokineioterapeut	Romania
Fizioterapeut	Serbia
Fizioterapeuta	Poland
Fizioterapeutski tehnicar	Serbia
Fizjoterapist	Malta
Fizyoterapist	Turkey
Füsioterapeut	Estonia
Fysioterapeuter	Denmark
Fysioterapeutti	Finland
Fysioterapi	Norway
Fysiotherapie	Curacao
Fysiotherapeut	Netherlands
Fyzioterapeut	Czech Republic
Kineioterapeut	Romania
Kinesiología	Paraguay
Kinesiologist	Chile
Kinesiologo	Chile
Kinesitherapeut(e)	Belgium
	Mauritius
Kinesitherapie/ Kinésithérapie	Luxembourg
	Rwanda
Kinesitherapist	Lithuania
Kineziterapeutas	Lithuania
Kinisiterapist	Bulgaria
Lääkintävoimistelija	Finland
Licenciate in physical therapy	Uruguay
Legitimerad sjukgymnast	Sweden
Licenced kinesiologist physiatric	Argentina
Licenced physical therapist	United States of America
Licenciada Fisioterapeuta	Uruguay
Licenciado en kinesiología y fysiatria	Argentina
Masseur - Kinésithérapeute ostéopathe	France
Masseur - Kinésithérapeute Rééducateur	France



Masseur - Physical therapist	France
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<b>Titles</b>	<b>Country using</b>
Masseur-kinésithérapeute diplômé	France
	Luxembourg
Medical rehabilitation	Bulgaria
Physical therapist	Afghanistan
	Australia
	Bahamas
	Barbados
	Bermuda
	Cambodia
	Canada
	Greece
	Hungary
	Iceland
	Israel
	Jamaica
	Japan
	Korea
	Macau
	Mauritius
	Norway
	Pakistan
	Romania
	Saudi Arabia
	Singapore
	South Africa
	Spain
	Suriname
	Syria
	Taiwan
	Thailand
Ukraine	
United Kingdom	
United States of America	
Zambia	
Physical therapy consultant	Egypt
Physical therapy practitioner	Egypt

Physical therapy specialist	Egypt
Physiotherapeftis	Greece

<b>Titles</b>	<b>Country using</b>
Physiotherapeut / Physiotherapeutin	Austria
	Switzerland
Physiothérapeute	Switzerland
Physiothérapie/ Physiotherapie	Canada
Physiothérapie/ Physiotherapie	Rwanda
Physiotherapist	Afghanistan
	Australia
	Austria
	Bahamas
	Bangladesh
	Belgium
	Bermuda
	Brazil
	Bulgaria
	Cambodia
	Canada
	Curaçao
	Czech Republic
	Denmark
	Estonia
	Ethiopia
	Fiji
	Finland
	Ghana
	Guyana
	Hong Kong
	Hungary
	India
	Ireland
	Jamaica
	Jordan
Kenya	
Latvia	
Luxembourg	
Malawi	

	Malta
	Mauritius
Physiotherapist	Mexico

<b>Titles</b>	<b>Country using</b>
	Montenegro
	Namibia
	Netherlands
	New Zealand
	Nigeria
	Pakistan
	Paraguay
	Poland
	Portugal
	Rwanda
	Saudi Arabia
	Serbia
	Singapore
	Slovakia
	Slovenia
	South Africa
	Sri Lanka
	Switzerland
	Trinidad and Tobago
	Turkey
	Uganda
	United Kingdom
	Zambia
	Zimbabwe
Physiotherapist with diploma	Liechtenstein
Physiotherapy technician	Jordan
Physiotherapy technologist	Zambia
Physiณະพยัรหะ	Thailand
Prefix Dr. and suffix PT	Bangladesh
Registered physical therapist	Jamaica
	Philippines
	Sweden
	United States of America
Sjúkrabjálfari	Iceland

Specialist of physical rehabilitation	Ukraine
Technician in physical therapy	Uruguay
Terapia Física	Mexico
Visi fizioterapeut	Serbia

<b>Titles</b>	<b>Country using</b>
ממטפל פיזי	Israel
الطبيعي العلاج	Saudi Arabia
นักกายภาพบำบัด	Thailand
물리 치료	Korea
物理治療	Hong Kong
	Macau
	Taiwan
理学療法士	Japan

Data provided by WCPT member organisations