



Prince Edward Island College of Occupational Therapists

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Reserved Activities under the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA)

Reserved activities are procedures or activities which may pose a risk to the public if not performed by a qualified practitioner. They can only be performed by a regulated health professional authorized to perform the activity under their profession-specific regulations/legislation or where the reserved activity has been appropriately delegated by an authorized professional to another professional who has the knowledge, skill and judgement to safely perform the activity i.e. orthopedic technologists making casts as delegated by an orthopedic surgeon.

There are **13 reserved activities under the PEI RHPA**:

- a) Communicating to the person or the person's representative a diagnosis identifying a disease or disorder as the cause of symptoms of the person in circumstances in which it is reasonably foreseeable that the person or the person's personal representative will rely on the diagnosis;
- b) Performing a procedure below the dermis, below the surface of mucous membrane, in or below the surface of the cornea, or in or below the surfaces of the teeth, including the scaling of teeth;
- c) Setting or casting a fracture of a bone or a dislocation of a joint;
- d) Moving the joints of the spine beyond the individual's usual physiological range of motion using a fast, low amplitude thrust;
- e) Administering a substance by injection, inhalation, mechanical ventilation or irrigation;
- f) Putting an instrument, hand or finger: beyond the external ear canal, beyond the point in the nasal passages where they normally narrow, beyond the larynx, beyond the opening of the urethra, beyond the labia majora, beyond the anal verge, or into an artificial opening into the body;
- g) Applying or ordering the application of a form of energy prescribed by the regulations under this Act;
- h) Prescribing, dispensing, selling or compounding a drug as defined in the Pharmacy Regulations or supervising the part of the pharmacy where such drugs are kept;
- i) Prescribing or dispensing, for vision or eye problems, subnormal vision devices, corrective or non-corrective contact lenses or eye glasses other than simple magnifiers;
- j) Fitting or dispensing a dental prosthesis, orthodontic or periodontal appliance or a device used inside the mouth to protect teeth from abnormal functioning;
- k) Managing labor or conducting the delivery of a baby;
- l) Allergy challenge testing of a kind in which a positive result of the test is significant allergic response;
- m) A reserved activity designated in the regulations.

* Some provinces also have Psychotherapy as a reserved activity; Psychotherapy is not a reserved activity under RHPA.

- 1) Occupational Therapists **do not have authorization to carry out any of the thirteen (13) reserved activities** listed in the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA). **Exemption:** an employee of Health PEI carrying out a diagnostic test for the coronavirus causing the disease known as COVID-19 (nasopharyngeal swab).
- 2) RHPA Section XII 86 (2) states that: "No person shall perform a reserved activity in the course of providing health care services to an individual unless a) the person is a member of a regulated health profession, and is authorized by regulation to perform the reserved activity, b) the person is authorized to perform the reserved activity under another Act. **This means that OT assistants, OT workers, OT students, or any unregulated individual cannot carry out any of the reserved activities.**