

4.3 Professional Leader / Manager of the Patient/Client

In their role as Professional Leaders, sports physiotherapists are responsible for promoting excellence within their profession. Sports physiotherapists are responsible for shaping their own development as autonomous professionals, and developing the quality of their services. They are also in a position to influence the attitudes of athletes, the multidisciplinary team and other sports physiotherapists in relation to ethical and optimal interactions. Competencies 6 and 7 describe this role:

- 6 Life-Long Learning
- 7 Professionalism and Management

6

Life-Long Learning

Sports physiotherapists maintain and improve clinical standards by their critical, reflective and evidence-based approach to practice, and through a continual process of learning and teaching in collaboration with other professionals

Context:

- life-long learning is relevant to the individual practitioner in all their roles, and to their function within a multidisciplinary team, with the aim of ensuring quality of service provision.

Behaviours:

- ongoing development of knowledge and skills.
- critical analysis of practice and research evidence.
- ongoing reflection on practice, learning experiences, and communications with clients
- identification of learning needs, and the development of plans to address these needs that include:
 - independent and experiential learning,
 - mentoring, and
 - participation in accredited and non-accredited courses,
 - with critical reflection regarding the application of new learning to practice – demonstrating a master’s level of thinking in relation to all continuing professional development (see appendix 2).
- Involvement in the provision of opportunities for continuing professional development in a multidisciplinary context, including teaching and mentoring in structured and non-structured environments.

Specific National Interpretations –

Standards Relating to Competency 6: Life-Long Learning	
A foundational knowledge	
The sports physiotherapist demonstrates the ability to:	
6A: 1	discuss the importance of ongoing learning to ensure quality of service provision
6A: 2	differentiate the level to which learning should be developed and demonstrated at basic (undergraduate) and post-basic (Master's ¹) levels
6A: 3	identify a variety of mechanisms for professional development from different information media and networks
B critique and synthesis	
The sports physiotherapist demonstrates the ability to:	
6B: 1	critically analyse and synthesise new information gained through different learning environments and media
C information collection	
The sports physiotherapist demonstrates the ability to:	
6C: 1	collect information that allows ongoing evaluation of practice and evidence for knowledge and skill development, for example, peer evaluations, client views, audit and outcomes research
D information processing	
The sports physiotherapist demonstrates the ability to:	
6D: 1	appropriately integrate new information into decision-making processes, emphasising evidence-based practice
6D: 2	critically reflect on personal experiences and information collected in relation to practice, identifying strengths and areas for further development
6D: 3	formulate a learning action plan that identifies opportunities and strategies that will address professional learning needs
6D: 4	reflect on ways in which a contribution can be made to the learning of others, while contributing to personal professional development
E action / intervention	
The sports physiotherapist demonstrates the ability to:	
6E: 1	regularly respond to identified learning needs, for example, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the collection and analysis of information that fills gaps in professional knowledge, • locating opportunities for skill development, • independent and experiential learning, • mentoring, and • participation in accredited and non-accredited courses,
6E: 2	participate in the provision of opportunities for continuing professional development in a multidisciplinary context, including teaching and mentoring in structured and non-structured environments.
F evaluation and modification	
The sports physiotherapist demonstrates the ability to:	
6F: 1	critically reflect on the extent to which learning needs have been met, and the application of new learning to practice;
G specific national standards	
6G: 1	

1: Master's level: See appendix 2