



VELFERÐARRÁÐUNEYTIÐ

Ministry of Welfare

REGULATION
on the education, rights and obligations of physiotherapists
and criteria for granting of licences and specialist licences,
No. 1127/2012.

SECTION I
General provisions.

Article 1

Scope.

This Regulation applies to physiotherapists holding licences and specialist licences from the Medical Director of Health under Articles 2 and 5.

SECTION II

Licences.

Article 2

Professional title.

The right to use the professional title of physiotherapist and to practise as such in Iceland is confined to those who have been granted a licence by the Medical Director of Health.

Article 3

Criteria for granting of a licence.

A licence under Article 2 may be granted to those who have completed a BS degree in physiotherapy from the Department of Physiotherapy from the Faculty of Medicine in the University of Iceland's School of Health Sciences.

A licence may also be granted on the basis of education from a state within the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland. Recognition of professional qualifications and competence of a physiotherapist who meets the criteria of Directive 2005/36/EC, on the recognition of professional qualifications, with subsequent amendments, is subject to Regulations on recognition of professional qualifications and competence of healthcare practitioners from other EEA states, No. 461/2011, or to Nordic Convention on a common Nordic labour market for certain health professionals and veterinarians, No. 36/1993 (*cf.* Amendment No. 6/2001).

A licence may also be granted to those who have completed a comparable qualification from an educational institution in a state outside the EEA or Switzerland, which is recognised as such by Icelandic health authorities, and by health authorities in the state where the education took place.

Other criteria for the issue of a licence are subject to Article 13.

Article 4

Opinions.

Before a licence is granted under Article 2 on the basis of education outside Iceland under the third paragraph of Article 3, the Medical Director of Health shall elicit the opinion of the Department of Physiotherapy in the Faculty of Medicine in the University of Iceland's School of Health Sciences, with regard to whether the applicant fulfils the criteria for education under the first paragraph of Article 3, for granting of a licence.

The Medical Director of Health may elicit opinions from other bodies, as deemed necessary.

SECTION III
Specialist licences in physiotherapy.

Article 5

Specialist licences.

The right to use the title of specialist in a specialist clinical field of physiotherapy and to practise as such in Iceland is confined to those granted a licence by the Medical Director of Health.

Article 6

Criteria for specialist licences.

Specialist licences may be granted in specialist clinical fields of physiotherapy. This is subject to the criterion that the specialist training of the applicant is defined as being within the specialist field for which he/she applies for a specialist licence. The relevant specialist field shall have a solid theoretical basis, and an equivalent shall exist in a recognised international forum.

A specialist clinical field refers to a field which involves direct interaction patients, as well as prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

In order to be entitled to receive a specialist licence under Article 5 a physiotherapist shall fulfil the following standards:

1. he/she shall be licensed as a physiotherapist in Iceland under Article 2; and
2. he/she shall have completed a master's or doctoral degree in physiotherapy from a recognised university, or hold an equivalent education; and
3. he/she shall have worked as a physiotherapist after graduation under indent 2 for the equivalent of at least two years full-time in the field for which the application for a specialist licence is made, and have received the guidance of a physiotherapist holding a specialist licence in the relevant field. If he/she has worked less than full-time, the duration of employment shall be proportionately longer.

Up to twelve months full-time may be subtracted if the person has been employed in the relevant speciality alongside doctoral studies. A specific field on which the person has focussed within the specialist clinical field may be specified.

Further criteria for the granting of a specialist licence are subject to Article 13.

Article 7

Specialist fields.

Specialist licences in physiotherapy may be granted in the following specialist clinical fields:

1. Paediatric physiotherapy.
2. Psychiatric physiotherapy.
3. Intensive care physiotherapy.
4. Diagnosis and treatment of the musculo-skeletal system - Manual therapy.
5. Health care, health promotion and occupational health.
6. Cardiac physiotherapy.
7. Sport physiotherapy.
8. Pulmonary physiotherapy.
9. Gynaecological/obstetric physiotherapy.
10. Musculoskeletal physiotherapy - orthopedic.
11. Musculoskeletal physiotherapy - arthritis.
12. Neurological physiotherapy.
13. Geriatric physiotherapy.

A specific field on which the person has focussed within the clinical specialist field may be specified.

Article 8

Application and opinions.

An application for a specialist licence in physiotherapy, together with documents confirming education and professional experience, and other necessary documents, shall be submitted to the Medical Director of Health.