



PHYSIOTHERAPISTS' CODE OF ETHICS

Updated version in force:

- Decree no. 2020-730 of 15 June 2020 relating to incentives offered by manufacturers and distributors of health products and services;
- Decree no. 2020-1663 of 22 December 2020 amending the code of ethics for physiotherapists and relating in particular to their professional communications;
- Decree no. 2021-684 of 28 May 2021 relating to the regime for decisions concerning health, care and social or medical-social support for adults who are subject to a guardianship order ;
- And decree no. 2026-62 of 5 February 2026 mending the code of ethics for physiotherapists.

Sub-section 1: General duties of physiotherapists (Articles R. 4321-51 to R. 4321-79)

Article R. 4321-51

The provisions of this Code of Ethics apply to physiotherapists registered on the roll of the Order and to physiotherapists practising a professional activity under the conditions set out in Articles L. 4321-1, L. 4321-2 and L. 4321-4.

In accordance with Article L. 4321-14, the Order of Physiotherapists is responsible for ensuring compliance with these provisions. Infringements of these provisions are subject to the Order's disciplinary jurisdiction.

Article R. 4321-52

The provisions of sub-sections 1 and 2 of this Code also apply to physiotherapy students mentioned in Article L. 4321-3. Infringements of these provisions are the responsibility of the disciplinary bodies of the training establishments and organisations with which these students are registered.

Article R. 4321-53

In the service of the individual and public health, physiotherapists shall carry out their role with respect for human life, the individual and his or her dignity. The requirement to treat a person with respect does not cease to apply after their death.

Article R. 4321-54

In all circumstances, physiotherapists shall respect the principles of morality, integrity and responsibility, essential to the practice of physiotherapy.



Article R. 4321-55

Professional secrecy instituted in the interest of patients is binding on physiotherapists and physiotherapy students under the conditions established by Articles L. 1110-4 and L. 4323-3 respectively. Secrecy covers everything that comes to the knowledge of physiotherapists in the exercise of their profession, i.e. not only what has been entrusted to them, but also what they have seen, heard or understood.

Article R. 4321-56

Physiotherapists may not transfer their professional independence in any form whatsoever.

Article R. 4321-57

Physiotherapists shall respect the right of every individual to freely choose their physiotherapist. They shall facilitate the exercise of this right.

Article R. 4321-58

Physiotherapists shall examine, advise or care for all their patients with the same level of conscientiousness, without discrimination within the meaning of the provisions of Articles 225-1 et seq. of the French Penal Code. They must always maintain a correct and attentive attitude towards the person being cared for.

Article R. 4321-59

Within the limits set by law, physiotherapists are free to take whatever actions they consider most appropriate in the circumstances. Without neglecting their duty of moral support, they shall limit their actions to what is necessary to ensure the quality, safety and effectiveness of the care. The same is true for their prescriptions, in accordance with Article L. 4321-1. They shall take into account the advantages, disadvantages and consequences of the various possible choices.

Article R. 4321-60

Physiotherapists who are in the presence of a sick or injured person whose life is in danger or who have been informed that a sick or injured person's life is in danger, shall assist that person or ensure that they receive the necessary care.

Article R. 4321-61

Physiotherapists who are asked or required to examine or treat a detainee may not, whether directly or indirectly, even by their very presence, encourage or condone an attack on that person's physical or mental integrity or dignity. If they find that this person has been subjected to abuse or ill-treatment, they shall inform the judicial



authority, subject to the consent of the person concerned. In the case of a minor under the age of 15, or a person who is unable to protect themselves due to their age or physical or mental condition, the consent of the person concerned is not required.

Article R. 4321-62

Physiotherapists shall take all necessary steps to maintain and improve their knowledge and skills. In particular, they must fulfil their obligation of continuous professional development.

Article R. 4321-63

Physiotherapists shall assist the competent authorities in their efforts to protect health and promote health education.

The collection, recording, processing and transmission of nominative or indirectly nominative information are authorised under the conditions laid down by law.

Article R. 4321-64

If a physiotherapist takes part in a public information campaign of an educational, scientific or health-related nature, regardless of the broadcasting media, he shall only report confirmed data, shall exercise caution and shall be aware of the repercussions of his comments on the public. It shall not be his intention to profit from his contribution in the context of his professional activity, nor to benefit the organisations within which he works or to which he lends his assistance.

Article R. 4321-65

Physiotherapists shall not disclose a new, insufficiently tested practice to professional circles without accompanying the information they provide with appropriate reservations. They shall not make such disclosures to a non-professional audience.

Article R. 4321-66

Physiotherapists shall only participate in research on individuals under the conditions laid down by law. They shall ensure, within the limits of their competence, the regularity and relevance of their research, as well as the objectivity of their conclusions. Treating physiotherapists who participate in research as an investigator, within the meaning of Article L. 1121-1, shall ensure that the study does not alter the relationship of trust between them and the patient, or the continuity of care.

Article R. 4321-67

Physiotherapy should not be practised as a business.



Article R. 4321-67-1

I. Physiotherapists are free to communicate to the public, by any means, including on a website, information likely to contribute to the patient's free choice of practitioner, relating in particular to their professional skills and practices, career path and conditions of practice.

This communication shall comply with the provisions in force and with the ethical obligations defined in this section. It shall be fair and honest, shall not rely on third-party testimonials, shall not be based on comparisons with other physiotherapists or establishments, and shall not encourage unnecessary recourse to preventive or curative procedures. It shall not undermine the dignity of the profession or mislead the public.

II. Physiotherapists may also, by any means, including on a website, communicate to the public or to healthcare professionals, for educational or health purposes, scientifically-supported information on questions relating to their discipline or to public health issues. They shall formulate this information with caution and moderation, in compliance with ethical obligations, and shall be careful not to present hypotheses that have not yet been confirmed as established data.

III. The communications referred to in this article take into account the recommendations issued by the National Council of the Order.

Article R. 4321-67-2

When presenting their activity to the public, in particular on a website, professionals from other Member States of the European Union or the European Economic Area, who have been granted partial access to the profession of physiotherapy under Article L. 4002-5 of the French Public Health Code, are required to inform the public of the list of procedures that they are authorised to perform.

As part of their practice, these professionals shall clearly inform patients and other recipients of their services in advance of the procedures that they are authorised to perform.

Article R. 4321-68

Physiotherapists may engage in another activity, unless such a combination is incompatible with their professional independence, morality and dignity, or is likely to enable them to profit from their prescriptions.

In the context of this other activity, with the agreement of the Departmental Council of the Order, they may use their title of physiotherapist.



Article R. 4321-69

Physiotherapists are prohibited from distributing remedies, devices or products presented as being relevant to health with a profit-seeking goal, unless exemptions are granted by the National Council of the Order, under the conditions set out in Articles L. 1453-6 and L. 1453-7.

Article R. 4321-70

The sharing of fees between physiotherapists, or between a physiotherapist and another healthcare professional, is prohibited under any form, except in the cases provided for in the contracts validated by the Departmental Council of the Order. The acceptance, solicitation or offer of a fee-sharing arrangement, even if not followed by action, is prohibited.

Article R. 4321-71

Competition between physiotherapists or between a physiotherapist and another healthcare professional or any other person is prohibited.

Article R. 4321-72

The following are prohibited for physiotherapists:

1. Any act likely to provide the patient with an unjustified or illicit material benefit;
2. Any rebate in money or in kind, any commission to any person whatsoever;
3. Apart from the conditions set out in Articles L. 1453-6 and L. 1453-7, the solicitation or acceptance of a benefit in kind or in cash in any form whatsoever, directly or indirectly, for a prescription or any therapeutic act whatsoever.

Article R. 4321-73

Physiotherapists are prohibited from performing any procedure or issuing any prescription in commercial premises or in any other place where products or appliances included in the list of medical devices that they may prescribe are offered for sale.

Article R. 4321-74

Physiotherapists shall take care as to the use made of their name, their status or their declarations. They must not tolerate the use of their identity for commercial purposes with the non-professional public by public or private organisations in which they practise or to which they lend their assistance.



Article R. 4321-75

A physiotherapist who holds an elected office or administrative position may not use it to increase his patient base.

Article R. 4321-76

Physiotherapists shall take the greatest care when drawing up attestations and certificates. They must be neutral and confine themselves to objective observations in compliance with this Code.

The issuing of a biased report or a certificate of convenience is prohibited.

Article R. 4321-77

Any fraud, abuse of quotation, inaccurate indication of procedures performed or fees received, or both, are prohibited.

Article R. 4321-78

Facilitating or colluding with anyone who engages in the illegal practice of physiotherapy is prohibited.

Article R. 4321-79

Physiotherapists shall refrain from any act likely to bring them into disrepute, even outside the practice of their profession.

Sub-section 2: Duties to patients (Articles R. 4321-80 to R. 4321-98)

Article R.4321-80

Once they have agreed to respond to a request, the physiotherapist shall personally undertake to provide the patient with conscientious, attentive care, based on the latest scientific knowledge.

Article R. 4321-81

Physiotherapists shall always make their diagnoses with the utmost care, using as far as possible the most appropriate scientific methods and, where necessary, appropriate assistance.



Article R. 4321-82

Physiotherapists shall formulate their prescriptions and requirements with all the necessary clarity, ensure that they are understood by the patient and their relatives, and endeavour to ensure that they are properly implemented.

Article R. 4321-83

Within the limits of their competence, physiotherapists must provide the person they are examining, treating or advising with fair, clear and appropriate information about their condition, and the care they are proposing. Throughout the course of the illness, they shall take the patient's personality into account in their explanations, and shall make sure that they are understood.

Article R. 4321-84

The consent of the person being examined or treated shall be sought in all cases. If the patient, capable of expressing their wishes, refuses the proposed treatment, the physiotherapist shall respect this refusal after informing the patient of the consequences and, with the patient's agreement, the prescribing physician.

If the patient is unable to express their wishes, the physiotherapist may not intervene unless the designated trusted support person or the patient's relatives have been notified and informed, except in an emergency or where this is impossible. The physiotherapist called upon to provide care to a minor or to an adult subject to a legal protection measure with representation relating to the person who is not capable of expressing their wishes, shall endeavour to inform their parents or legal representative or the person in charge of the legal protection measure and to obtain their consent or authorisation, as appropriate. The person in charge of the personal representation measure shall take into account the opinion of the patient they represent. Except in emergencies, in the event of a disagreement between the protected adult and the person in charge of their protection, the judge will authorise one or the other to make the decision. In an emergency, even if they cannot be reached, the physiotherapist shall provide the necessary care. If the opinion of the person concerned can be obtained, the physiotherapist shall take this into account as far as possible.

Article R. 4321-85

In all circumstances, physiotherapists shall endeavour to relieve the patient's suffering by means appropriate to their condition, and shall provide moral support.

Article R. 4321-86

Physiotherapists shall help to ensure, through appropriate care and measures, the



quality of a life that is coming to an end, safeguard the patient's dignity and comfort their relatives. They do not have the right to deliberately cause death.

Article R. 4321-87

Physiotherapists may not advise or propose to the patient or their relatives, as being beneficial or without danger, a product or procedure that is illusory or insufficiently tested. Any practice of charlatanism is prohibited.

Article R. 4321-88

Physiotherapists shall refrain from exposing the patient to any unjustified risk in the procedures they perform or in the medical devices they prescribe.

Article R. 4321-89

Physiotherapists must act as the child's advocate if they feel that the child's health interests are being misunderstood or misguided by those around them.

Article R. 4321-90

I. If a physiotherapist suspects that a person to whom they are called upon to provide care is a victim of violence, abuse, deprivation or mistreatment, they must take action by any means necessary. They shall make a conscientious assessment, and choose the means that they will implement to protect the victim according to the circumstances of the case.

II. The physiotherapist may, in particular, under the conditions provided for in nos. 2 to 3 of Article 226-14 of the French Penal Code, alert the public prosecutor or the unit in charge of gathering, processing and assessing information of concern relating to a minor in danger or at risk of danger, mentioned in the second paragraph of Article L. 226-3 of the French Social Action and Family Code.

The physiotherapist shall obtain the person's consent before issuing the alert. In the case of a minor or a person who is unable to protect themselves due to age or their physical or mental condition, the consent of the person concerned is not required. If the physiotherapist reports a case of domestic violence covered by Article 132-80 of the French Penal Code, the physiotherapist shall endeavour to obtain the consent of the adult and, if this cannot be obtained, shall inform the adult of the alert issued to the public prosecutor.

III. The alert issued to the competent authorities by the physiotherapist under the conditions provided for in Article 226-14 of the French Penal Code cannot render them liable to disciplinary action, unless it is established that they did not act in good faith.



Article R. 4321-91

Independently of the personal medical file provided for in Article L. 161-36-1 of the French Social Security Code, the physiotherapist shall keep a personal file for each patient, which shall be confidential and contain up-to-date information required to make diagnostic and therapeutic decisions.

In all cases, these documents shall be kept under the responsibility of the physiotherapist. Subject to the provisions applicable to healthcare establishments, physiotherapy records shall be kept under the responsibility of the physiotherapist who drew them up or who is responsible for them. If a practice is not taken over, the medical documents shall be sent to the Departmental Council of the Order, which shall become the guarantor.

With the patient's consent, the physiotherapist shall pass on to other physiotherapists and physicians whom they intend to consult, any information and documents that are useful for the continuity of care.

Article R. 4321-92

The continuity of patient care must be ensured. Except in emergencies or in cases when they would be in breach of their duties towards humanity, physiotherapists have the right to refuse to provide care for professional or personal reasons. If they withdraw from their role, they shall inform the patient and pass on to the physiotherapist designated by the latter the information required for the continuation of care.

Article R. 4321-93

Physiotherapists may not abandon their patients in the event of public danger.

Article R. 4321-94

Physiotherapists called upon to provide care in a family or community must, as far as possible, make every effort to ensure compliance with the rules of hygiene and measures to prevent the spread of disease. They shall inform patients of their responsibilities and duties towards themselves and third parties and of the precautions they must take.

Article R. 4321-95

Without yielding to any abusive demands, physiotherapists shall make it easier for the patient to obtain the social benefits to which their condition entitles them.

To this end, they shall be authorised, with the patient's consent, to communicate information which is strictly necessary to the consultancy practitioner of the social security organisation to which they belong, or belonging to a public or private



organisation deciding on the allocation of social benefits.

Article R. 4321-96

Physiotherapists must not interfere in family affairs or in the private lives of their patients for no professional reason.

Article R. 4321-97

Physiotherapists who participated in the treatment of a person during the illness from which they died may only benefit from inter vivos and testamentary dispositions made in their favour by the person during the course of this illness in the cases and under the conditions set out in Article 909 of the French Civil Code. Nor may they abuse their influence to obtain a mandate or enter into a contract for valuable consideration under conditions that would be abnormally favourable to them.

Article R. 4321-98

Physiotherapists' fees shall be determined with tact and moderation, taking into account the regulations in force, the procedures performed or the particular circumstances. They may only be claimed in respect of procedures actually carried out.

Physiotherapists shall comply with the provisions of Articles L. 1111-3-2 and L. 1111-3-3 with regard to informing the patient of the costs of their services and the conditions for reimbursement and exemption from advance payment of these costs. They shall ensure that the patient is informed in advance of the amount of the fees.

Any physiotherapist who presents their activity to the public, particularly on a website, must include information about the fees charged, the payment methods accepted and the obligations laid down by law to enable all persons to have access to prevention or care without discrimination. The information must be clear, honest, precise and non-comparative.

Physiotherapists shall respond to all requests for information and explanations about their fees or the cost of treatment. They may not refuse payment of any sums received.

No particular payment method may be imposed on patients. Except in the case of specific regulatory provisions, flat-rate payments for treatment and requests for advance payment in connection with therapeutic care are prohibited under all circumstances.

Advice given to a patient by telephone or by correspondence shall not give rise to any fee, subject to the provisions relating to telecare.



Sub-section 3: Duties to fellow members and members of other healthcare professions (Articles R. 4321-99 to R. 4321-111)

Article R. 4321-99

Physiotherapists shall maintain good fraternal relations with each other. It is prohibited for a physiotherapist to slander another physiotherapist, to speak ill of them, or to echo comments that could harm them in the practice of their profession. It is prohibited to take undue credit for a scientific discovery, particularly in a publication, or to plagiarise, including in the context of initial and ongoing training.

Any physiotherapist who has a dispute with a colleague shall seek conciliation, if necessary through the Departmental Council of the Order.

Article R. 4321-100

Misappropriation or attempted misappropriation of patients is prohibited.

Article R. 4321-101

Physiotherapists who are consulted by a patient treated by one of their colleagues shall respect the interest and free choice of the patient who wishes to consult another physiotherapist.

With the patient's agreement, the consulted physiotherapist shall inform the physiotherapist who began the treatment of his findings and decisions. If the patient refuses, they shall be informed of the consequences of their refusal.

Article R. 4321-102

A physiotherapist who is called urgently to a patient shall write a report of his intervention and any prescriptions for his colleague, if the patient needs to be seen again by their treating physiotherapist or another physiotherapist. He shall give this report to the patient or send it directly to his colleague, informing the patient. He shall keep a copy.

Article R. 4321-103

The physiotherapist must propose a consultation with a colleague as soon as the circumstances require this, or accept a consultation requested by the patient or the patient's relatives. He shall respect the patient's choice and, unless there are serious objections, refer the patient or call in a colleague. At the end of the consultation, and with the patient's consent, the consulted colleague shall inform the treating physiotherapist in writing of their findings, conclusions and any directives.



Article R. 4321-104

If the opinions of the consulted physiotherapist and the treating physiotherapist differ significantly, the treating physiotherapist shall inform the patient. If the opinion of the consulted physiotherapist prevails with the patient or their relatives, the treating physiotherapist shall be free to cease treatment. The consulted physiotherapist must not, on his own initiative, summon or re-examine the patient during the course of the treatment for which he was consulted.

Article R. 4321-105

If several physiotherapists collaborate in the examination or treatment of a patient, they shall keep each other informed with the patient's consent. Each practitioner shall assume his personal responsibilities and ensure that the patient is kept informed. Each practitioner is free to refuse to assist or to withdraw his assistance, provided that he does no harm to the patient and informs his colleagues.

Article R. 4321-106

Without prejudice to the provisions applicable to public and private health establishments, physiotherapists who take charge of a patient during their hospitalisation must notify the physiotherapist designated by the patient or the patient's relatives. He shall keep him informed of essential decisions concerning the patient, after the latter has given his consent. In the event of a scheduled hospitalisation, with the patient's consent, the treating physiotherapist shall communicate all useful information to the colleague at the establishment.

Article R. 4321-107

A physiotherapist may only be temporarily replaced in his practice by a colleague registered on the roll of the Order. The replacement is personal.

The use of a replacement must not result in the practice being placed under management, as prohibited by Article R. 4321-132.

A physiotherapist who is to be replaced must inform the Departmental Council of the Order beforehand, indicating the name and position of the person replacing him, and the dates and duration of the replacement. He shall forward the replacement contract in accordance with Article L. 4113-9.

The freelance physiotherapist being replaced must cease all healthcare activities for the duration of the replacement. Exceptions to this rule may be granted by the Departmental Council in exceptional circumstances.



Article R. 4321-108

Once the replacement is complete, the person replacing the physiotherapist shall cease all related activities, and shall forward the information and administrative documents required to ensure continuity of care.

Article R. 4321-109

Physiotherapists are free to provide their services free of charge.

Article R. 4321-110

Physiotherapists shall maintain good relations with members of other health professions.

Article R. 4321-111

In accordance with Article L. 4113-9, in the context of a therapeutic activity, any salaried contract with a person practising another healthcare profession, whether regulated or not, as well as any collaborative contract involving a relationship of subordination, must be communicated to the Departmental Council of the Order.

Sub-section 4: Exercising of the profession (Articles R. 4321-112 to R. 4321-141)

Paragraph 1: Rules common to all modes of practice (Articles R. 4321-112 to R. 4321-128)

Article R. 4321-112

The practice of physiotherapy is personal. Each physiotherapist is responsible for his decisions, actions and directives.

Article R. 4321-113

All physiotherapists are entitled to perform all regulated acts. However, except in exceptional circumstances, they must not initiate or continue care, or prescribe in areas that exceed their skills, knowledge, experience and available resources.

Article R. 4321-114

Physiotherapists shall have at their disposal, in their place of practice, suitable facilities and sufficient technical means in relation to the nature of the procedures they perform. The premises must allow professional secrecy to be respected. In particular,



store fronts, doors and windows must be blacked out.

Physiotherapists shall ensure compliance with the rules of hygiene and cleanliness. They must not practise their profession in conditions that could compromise the quality of care or the safety of the people they treat. In particular, where necessary, they must ensure that infectious waste is disposed of in accordance with regulatory procedures. It is the responsibility of the Departmental Council to check that the conditions required to practise the professional activity by the provisions of the preceding paragraphs are met.

When visiting the patient at his home, the physiotherapist must, as far as possible, have sufficient technical resources at his disposal. If this is not the case, the physiotherapist shall suggest that the patient continue his treatment at the physiotherapist's own practice or in a suitable facility.

Article R. 4321-115

Physiotherapists shall ensure that those assisting them in their practice are informed of their obligations with regard to professional secrecy and that they comply with them. In particular, they shall ensure that the confidentiality of their professional correspondence is not compromised by those around them.

Article R. 4321-116

Physiotherapists shall protect from any indiscretion professional documents concerning the people they treat or have treated, examined or cared for, regardless of the content and medium of these documents. The same applies to any professional information which may be in their possession. Physiotherapists shall ensure, when using their experience or documents for scientific publication or teaching purposes, that it is not possible to identify the persons concerned. Failing this, their written agreement must be obtained.

Article R. 4321-117

The practice of physiotherapy at fairs is prohibited. However, exemptions may be granted by the Departmental Council of the Order in the interests of public health or the promotion of the profession.

Article R. 4321-118

The practice of physiotherapy under a pseudonym is prohibited. A physiotherapist who uses a pseudonym for activities relating to his profession is required to declare this to the Departmental Council of the Order.

Article R. 4321-119

The practice of physiotherapy requires the physiotherapist to draw up certificates, attestations and documents required by legislative and regulatory texts. Prescriptions,



certificates, attestations or documents issued by a physiotherapist shall be written legibly in French, shall be dated, shall enable the practitioner from whom they originate to be identified and shall be signed by him.

Article R. 4321-120

Physiotherapists shall take part in the permanent care service within the framework of the laws and texts that organise it.

Article R. 4321-121

When participating in an on-call, emergency or back-up service, physiotherapists shall make every effort to be reached.

Article R. 4321-122

Physiotherapists shall indicate on their prescription forms and other professional documents:

1. Their surname, first names, professional postal and electronic address, telephone number and identification number in the shared directory of professionals working in the healthcare system;
2. Their diploma or degree entitling them to practise their profession;
3. Their status with regard to health insurance organisations;
4. Their membership of an approved association as provided for in Article 371M of the French General Tax Code;
5. Where applicable, their participation in a health network or care structure.

They may also mention their diplomas, titles, functions and specificities of practice where they are recognised by the French National Council of the Order, honorary distinctions recognised by the French Republic, as well as any other indication taking into account the recommendations issued on the subject by the French National Council of the Order.

Article R. 4321-123

Physiotherapists shall indicate on their prescription forms and other professional documents:

I. Physiotherapists are authorised to include in directories for public use, regardless of the medium:

1. Their surname, first names and professional address, contact details, and consultation days and times;
2. Their status with regard to health insurance organisations;
3. Their diploma or degree entitling them to practise their profession.
4. Where applicable, their participation in a health network or care structure.
5. Their diplomas, titles, functions and specificities of practice recognised by the



French National Council of the Order and honorary distinctions recognised by the French Republic.

They may also mention other information useful for informing the public, taking into account the recommendations issued in this regard by the French National Council of the Order.

Joint practice companies may make themselves known under the same conditions.

II. It is prohibited for a physiotherapist to obtain, in return for payment or by any other means, a digital list giving priority to information concerning them in the results of an internet search.

Article R. 4321-124 (repealed)

In the context of non-therapeutic activities, advertising is exclusively authorised in directories for public use, under a heading other than that of physiotherapists. The advertising medium shall be submitted for authorisation to the Departmental Council of the Order.

Where the physiotherapist practises exclusively within a non-therapeutic context, the advertising medium shall be submitted for approval to the Departmental Council of the Order. In the event of a refusal, an appeal may be lodged with the French National Council of the Order.

Article R. 4321-125

Physiotherapists may display their surname, first names, telephone number, consultation days and times and health insurance status on a plaque at their place of practice. They may also mention their diplomas, titles, functions and specificities of practice recognised by the French National Council of the Order.

A plaque may be affixed to the entrance to the building and another to the door of the practice. Where the layout of the premises so requires, an intermediate sign may be provided.

These signs must be displayed discreetly. Physiotherapists shall take into account the recommendations issued by the French National Council of the Order relating to professional signs and any other signs used in practices.

Article R. 4321-126

When setting up or changing practice, physiotherapists may publish advertisements in any medium, taking into account the recommendations issued by the French National Council of the Order.



Article R. 4321-127

In accordance with the provisions of Article L. 4113-9, the regular practice of physiotherapy, in any form whatsoever, within a company, a community, a healthcare organisation or an institution governed by private law must, in all cases, be the subject of a written contract.

This contract defines the respective obligations of the parties and specifies the means by which physiotherapists are to comply with the provisions of this Code of Ethics. Draft contracts and amendments may be communicated to the Departmental Council of the Order, which shall make its observations known within the time limit set out in Article L. 4113-12.

An agreement or renewal of an agreement with one of the bodies mentioned in the first paragraph with a view to the practice of physiotherapy shall be communicated to the Departmental Council of the Order concerned, as must any amendments and internal regulations when the contract refers to them. The latter shall verify that the contract complies with the provisions of this Code of Ethics and, if any exist, with the essential clauses of standard contracts drawn up either by the National Council of the Order or in accordance with legislative or regulatory provisions.

The physiotherapist shall sign and submit to the Departmental Council a declaration in which he swears on his honour that no counter-letter has been sent and no amendment made in relation to the contract submitted to said Council for examination.

Article R. 4321-128

The regular practice of physiotherapy, in any form whatsoever, within a State administration, a local authority or a public institution is to be subject to a written contract, except in cases where the physiotherapist is a permanent employee of the State, local authority or public institution, or is governed by legislative or regulatory provisions that do not provide for the conclusion of a contract.

The physiotherapist shall communicate this contract to the Departmental Council of the Order. Any observations made by this body shall be sent to the administrative authority and the physiotherapist concerned.

Paragraph 2: Forms of freelance practice (Articles R. 4321-129 to R. 4321-135)

Article R. 4321-129

The physiotherapist's usual place of practice is that of the professional address under which, in accordance with article L. 4321-10, he is registered on the roll of the Departmental Council of the Order.



In the case of exclusive home-based practice, the personal address is shown on the roll of the Order. This is considered to be the place of professional practice.

A physiotherapist may not have more than one secondary practice, which must be declared to the Departmental Council of the Order.

However, if there is a shortage or inadequacy of care in a given geographical area, to the detriment of patients' needs or the continuity of care, the Departmental Council of the Order in whose jurisdiction the planned activity is located may grant authorisation to open one or more additional places of practice. The application must be accompanied by all relevant information on the conditions of practice. If this information is insufficient, the Departmental Council of the Order shall request further details.

If the request concerns a sector located in another French department (*département*), the Departmental Council of the Order on whose roll the physiotherapist is registered shall be informed.

The Departmental Council of the Order is the only body empowered to grant authorisation. If no response is received within three months¹ of the date of receipt of the application, tacit authorisation shall be deemed to have been granted. The authorisation is personal, temporary and non-transferable. It may be terminated if the conditions set out in the third paragraph are no longer met.¹

Article R. 4321-130

A physiotherapist who has replaced one of his colleagues for at least three months, whether consecutive or not, must not, for a period of two years, set up in a practice where he may enter into direct competition with the replaced physiotherapist or with physiotherapists who, where applicable, practise with the latter, unless there is an agreement between the parties concerned which must be notified to the Departmental Council.

Article R. 4321-131

A contract to work as a freelancer or as a freelance assistant may be concluded for a fixed or indefinite period. However, the terms stipulated in the contract must be renegotiated at least every four years. The contract must be sent to the relevant Departmental Council of the Order.

¹ – Article 2 of Decree no. 2026-62 of 5 February 2026: "The provisions of no. 7 of Article 1 are applicable to applications for authorisation to open one or more additional places of practice as referred to in the fourth paragraph of [Article R. 4321-129 of the French Public Health Code](#), submitted after the date of entry into force of this decree."



Article R. 4321-132

A physiotherapist is prohibited from managing his own practice. However, the Departmental Council of the Order may authorise a physiotherapist to run the practice of a colleague who has died or is totally, temporarily or permanently unable to practise, for a period of six months, renewable once if necessary. Exceptional waivers of this deadline may be granted by the Departmental Council.

Article R. 4321-133

Physiotherapists must not set up a practice in a building occupied by a colleague without the latter's agreement or the authorisation of the Departmental Council of the Order. This authorisation can only be refused on grounds of risk of confusion for the public. If the Departmental Council of the Order remains silent, tacit authorisation will be deemed to have been granted on expiry of a period of two months from the date of receipt of the application.

Article R. 4321-134

The association or formation of a company between physiotherapists with a view to practising the profession shall be the subject of a written contract which respects the professional independence of each of them.

In accordance with the provisions of Article L. 4113-9, agreements, contracts and amendments shall be communicated to the Departmental Council of the Order, which shall check that they comply with the principles of this Code of Ethics and, where they exist, with the essential clauses of standard contracts drawn up by the French National Council of the Order. Draft agreements, contracts and amendments may be communicated to the Departmental Council of the Order, which will make its observations known within the time limit set out in Article L. 4113-12.

The physiotherapist shall sign and submit to the Departmental Council a declaration in which he swears on his honour that no counter-letter has been sent and no amendment made in relation to the contract submitted to said Council for examination.

The provisions of this article apply to the contracts mentioned in articles R. 4321-107, R. 4321-111 and R. 4321-131.

The physiotherapist shall sign and submit to the Departmental Council a declaration in which he swears on his honour that no counter-letter has been sent and no amendment made in relation to the contract submitted to said Council for examination.

The provisions of this article apply to the contracts mentioned in articles R. 4321-107, R.



4321-111 and R. 4321-131.

Article R. 4321-135

In practices with several practitioners working together, whatever their legal status, the practice of physiotherapy must remain personal. Each practitioner retains his or her professional independence, and the patient's free choice of physiotherapist must be respected.

The physiotherapist may use letterheaded documents common to the association or company of which he is a member. The signatory must be identifiable and his address must be stated.

Paragraph 3: Procedures for salaried practice (Articles R. 4321-136 to R. 4321-137)

Article R. 4321-136

The fact that a physiotherapist is bound in his professional practice by a contract or statute to an administration, local authority or any other public or private body shall in no way detract from his professional duties, and in particular his obligations concerning professional secrecy and the independence of his decisions.

Under no circumstances should physiotherapists accept any restrictions of their independence in their professional practice by their employer. They must always act, first and foremost, in the interests of people, their safety and public health within the companies or communities in which they work.

Article R. 4321-136-1

A salaried physiotherapist may not, under any circumstances, accept remuneration based on standards of productivity, hourly output or any other arrangement that would result in the restriction or abandonment of his independence or impair the quality of care.

Article R. 4321-137

Physiotherapists working in a private or public healthcare or prevention service may not use their position to increase their patient base.



Paragraph 4: Other forms of practice (Articles R. 4321-138 to R. 4321-141)

Article R. 4321-138

No person may be both an expert or consultant physiotherapist and a treating physiotherapist for the same patient.

The physiotherapist must not accept an assignment as an expert in which his own interests are at stake, or those of one of his patients, one of his relatives, one of his friends or a group that usually calls upon his services.

Article R. 4321-139

When on an assignment, the expert physiotherapist must remove himself if he considers that the questions put to him are unconnected to the art of physiotherapy, to his knowledge, to his capacities or that they would expose him to contravene the provisions of this Code of Ethics.

Article R. 4321-140

Before undertaking any expert assessment, the expert physiotherapist shall inform the person concerned of his task and the judicial framework under which his opinion is being sought.

Article R. 4321-141

In writing his report, the expert physiotherapist must only reveal information likely to provide answers to the questions posed. Outside these limits, he must not reveal anything that he may have learned in the course of this expert assessment. He certifies that he has personally carried out his assignment.

Sub-section 5: Miscellaneous provisions (Articles R. 4321-142 to R. 4321-145)

Article R. 4321-142

All physiotherapists, when they are entered on the roll, shall certify to the Departmental Council of the Order that they are aware of this Code of Ethics, and shall undertake, under written oath, to comply with it.

Article R. 4321-143

Any deliberately inaccurate or incomplete declaration made by a physiotherapist to the Departmental Council of the Order may give rise to disciplinary proceedings. The same applies to the concealment of professional contracts.



Article R. 4321-144

Any physiotherapist who changes his conditions of practice, including his professional address, or ceases to practise in the *département*, is required to notify the Departmental Council of the Order without delay. The latter shall update the roll of the Order to take account of these changes, and shall inform the National Council.

Article R. 4321-145

Decisions taken by the Order of Physiotherapists in application of this provisions must state the reasons on which they are based.

Decisions by Departmental Councils may be reversed or annulled by the National Council of the Order, either *ex officio* or at the request of the interested parties; in the latter case, the appeal must be lodged within two months of notification of the decision.

Appeals against decisions by departmental councils shall only be admissible if they have been preceded by an administrative appeal to the National Council of the Order.