



# Allied Health Policy Secretariat

Health Sector Workforce and Beneficiary Services Division  
Ministry of Health

## What is our role?

To provide strategic policy direction and provincial oversight for the allied health workforce in 3 key areas of focus:

1. **Education and training**
2. **Recruitment and retention**
3. **Professional practice (role/scope optimization)**

### Provincial Definition of Allied Health (draft)

*The Allied Health Workforce is made up of a diverse range of health professionals and occupations, both regulated and unregulated. They provide preventative, diagnostic, rehabilitative, mental health, nutrition and therapeutic services in a variety of settings. Allied health often work in collaboration with physicians, nurses, patients, clients, residents, families and others to optimize team-based care.*

## Who do we work with?

- Key partners and stakeholders (e.g. Health authorities (professional practice; human resources; operations), post-secondary institutions, unions, professional associations, regulatory colleges, Health Employers Association of BC).
- Other provincial government ministries (e.g. Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training (AEST); Ministry of Children and Family Development; Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation; Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions).
- Other areas within the Ministry of Health to support an integrated approach for health human resources related to strategic priorities (e.g. workforce planning, professional regulation and oversight, labour relations and union agreements, Nursing Policy Secretariat, Physician Services, Health Services, Primary Care, etc.)

## Why is this work important?

Allied health professionals play a critical role in meeting the Ministry’s strategic priorities. Supporting the education, recruitment, retention and practice of allied health professionals ensures we have the right number and type of health professionals with the skills and competencies required to provide optimal care for British Columbians.

### Core Team Functions

Collaborate with AEST to ensure allied health related **education and training** programs are consistent with current health system direction.

Provide strategic oversight and direction for allied health **clinical capacity and student practice education**.

Lead provincial policy and program development for allied health **recruitment and retention**.

Ensure optimization of the allied health workforce and support **scope of practice and models of care** that meet population health needs.

## Criteria

To be considered part of the allied health workforce, the following criteria must be met:

- Completion of post-secondary education and training that meets profession or occupation specific qualification requirements other than medical and nursing related training
- Provides direct patient care or supports patient/ resident/ client care
- Develops/ contributes to/informs the treatment plan

## List of Allied Health Professions/ Occupations\*

- Activity assistant/ aide/ worker/ co-ordinator
- Anesthesia assistant
- Art therapist
- Athletic/ exercise therapist
- Audiologist
- Behaviour therapist
- Biomedical engineering technologist
- Cardiology technologist
- Cardiovascular perfusionist
- Chiropodist
- Chiropractor
- Counselling therapist
- Clinical counsellor
- Cytogenetics technologist
- Dentists
- Dental assistant
- Dental hygienist
- Dental technician
- Denturist
- Diagnostic medical sonographer
- Diagnostic neurophysiology technician
- Dialysis technician
- Dietitian
- Electroencephalograph (EEG) technologist
- Electromyography (EMG) technologist
- Electroneurophysiology (ENP) technologist
- Exercise physiologist
- Genetic counsellor
- Kinesiologist
- Magnetic resonance imaging technologist
- Mammography technologist
- Massage therapist
- Medical laboratory assistant
- Medical laboratory technologist
- Medical physicist
- Medical radiation technologist
- Mental health substance use clinicians/ counsellors
- Music therapist
- Naturopathic Physicians
- Nuclear medicine technologist
- Occupational therapist
- Ocularist
- Ophthalmic technician
- Optician
- Optometrist
- Orthoptist
- Orthotist
- Osteopath
- Pacemaker technologist
- Paramedic
- Pathologist assistant
- PET technologist
- Pharmacist
- Pharmacy assistant
- Pharmacy technician
- Physical therapist
- Polysomnography technologist
- Prosthetist
- Psychologist
- Radiation therapist
- Radiological technologist
- Recreation therapist
- Reflexologist
- Rehabilitation assistant
- Respiratory therapist
- Social program officer
- Social worker
- Speech language pathologist
- Spiritual health practitioner
- Traditional Chinese medicine practitioners and acupuncturist

\*List may not be exhaustive

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