

Safeguarding Policy for Private Physiotherapy Practitioners in a clinic or domiciliary setting

Safeguarding Policy for **Full Range Physio LTD**

Full Range Physio LTD abides by the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults, children and young people and is committed to safeguarding practice that reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice requirements.

- We recognise the welfare of patients is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
- All patients, regardless of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation has an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some patients are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues

Definitions

The Children Act 1989 definition of a child is: anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday, even if they are living independently, are a member of the armed forces or is in hospital.

Adult at Risk: Is any adult who:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

Child and Adult Abuse: Children and adults may be vulnerable to neglect and abuse or exploitation from within their family and from individuals they come across in their daily lives. There are 4 main categories of abuse, which are: sexual, physical, emotional abuse, and neglect.

Full Range Physio LTD should have in place arrangements that reflect the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all patients in whatever setting your physiotherapy treatment or advice is delivered to include a clinic setting, peoples' homes, a sports club or training environment.

Training and Awareness:

Full Range Physio LTD will ensure an appropriate level of safeguarding training is available to its Employees and any relevant persons linked to the organisation who requires it (e.g. self-employed associates).

This awareness training will enable them to:

- Understand what safeguarding is and their role in safeguarding patients.
- Recognise a patient potentially in need of safeguarding and take action.
- Understand how to report a safeguarding Alert.
- Understand dignity and respect when working with patients

Confidentiality and Information Sharing:

Full Range Physio LTD expects all employees and/or linked persons, to maintain confidentiality. Information will only be shared in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Data Protection.

However, information should be shared with the Local Authority if a patient is deemed to be at risk of harm or **contact the police if they are in immediate danger, or a crime has been committed**. For further guidance on information sharing and safeguarding refer to awareness training and any specific policies published by your local authority

Recording and Record Keeping:

A written record must be kept about any concern regarding a patient with safeguarding needs. This must include details of the person involved, the nature of the concern and the actions taken, decision made and why they were made.

All records must be signed and dated. All records must be securely and confidentially stored in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and the policy of your clinic.

Safe Recruitment & Selection:

Full Range Physio LTD is committed to safe employment and safe recruitment practices, that reduce the risk of harm to patients from people unsuitable to work with them or have contact with them.

Full Range Physio LTD has policies and procedures that that cover the recruitment of all employees and self-employed associates

Social Media:

All employees and volunteers should be aware of Full Range Physio LTD social media policy and procedures and the code of conduct for behaviour towards the patients we support.

Use of Mobile Phones and other Digital Technology:

All employees, and self-employed associates should be aware of Full Range Physio LTD policy and procedures regarding the use of mobile phones and any digital technology and understand that it is

unlawful to video or photograph patients without their explicit consent, or in the case of children, the consent of the person with parental responsibilities

Whistleblowing:

It is important that people within Full Range Physio LTD have the confidence to come forward to speak or act if they are unhappy with anything. Whistle blowing occurs when a person raises a concern about dangerous or illegal activity, or any wrong- doing within their organisation. This includes concerns about another employee or self-employed associate. There is also a requirement by Full Range Physio LTD to protect whistleblowers.

Mental Capacity and Consent:

We strictly adhere to the **Mental Capacity Act 2005**. We assume every patient has the capacity to make their own decisions regarding their physiotherapy treatment unless proven otherwise. For patients who may lack capacity (due to illness, disability, or mental health conditions), all clinical decisions and safeguarding actions will be made in their "**Best Interests**" following a formal capacity assessment. We recognize that a patient's capacity may fluctuate, and we will regularly review their ability to provide informed consent throughout their course of treatment.

Professional Boundaries and Chaperones:

In line with **HCPC standards**, all practitioners will maintain clear professional boundaries at all times. Patients have a right to a **chaperone** for any part of an assessment or treatment, particularly where intimate examinations (e.g., hip, groin, or chest area) are required. Patients will be informed of their right to a chaperone at the initial assessment. If a patient requests a chaperone and one is not available, the appointment will be rescheduled. A formal record will be kept in the clinical notes whenever a chaperone is present or if a patient specifically declines the offer of one.

Extended Categories of Harm:

In addition to the four main categories of abuse, we actively monitor for signs of:

Domestic Abuse: Including coercive control and physical violence within a home setting.

Modern Slavery: Identifying potential victims of human trafficking or forced labor.

Financial Abuse: Unauthorized use of a patient's funds or property, particularly relevant for "Adults at Risk".

Radicalisation (Prevent Duty): Identifying individuals who may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

Duty of Candour: As a registered healthcare professional, I have a **professional duty of candour** to be open and honest with patients when something goes wrong with their care that causes (or has the potential to cause) harm or distress. In any such instance, we will provide a full explanation, a formal apology, and a clear plan of the steps being taken to prevent a recurrence.

Training sources to consider

<https://cpdonline.co.uk/courses/safeguarding/>

<https://www.highspeedtraining.co.uk/courses/safeguarding/>

<https://www.virtual-college.co.uk/safeguarding-training-courses>

Pick the course that is the most suitable to your scope of practice, your working environments and your patient demographic