

# Dual Practice Position Statement

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## Preamble

The practice of more than one profession by the same practitioner raises questions regarding the accountability of a practitioner who is functioning in dual roles. In these circumstances there is the potential for clients to be misled with respect to the qualifications or role of the practitioner. This position statement has been developed to assist kinesiologists who engage in dual practice, “the practice of more than one profession”, with decisions about when it is appropriate to include interventions in their kinesiology practice and when it is appropriate to separate their practice and cease to present themselves as kinesiologists to the public.

## Definitions

Dual Practice: A kinesiologist is engaging in dual practice when he or she is practicing as a kinesiologist and also as another regulated or unregulated practitioner.

Regulated Health Profession: Any discipline covered by the [Health Professions Act \(HPA\)](#) of British Columbia.

## Scope of Practice

The scope of practice of Kinesiologists is defined by the BCKA as:

*Kinesiology is the scientific study of human movement, performance and function, and applies the sciences of anatomy, physiology, biomechanics, and motor learning (neuroscience). Kinesiology utilizes science-based approaches, research and assessment to aid in the enhancement of human performance and to assist in the prevention or rehabilitation of injury and other physiological conditions.*

The scope of practice of kinesiology is broad and includes the application of interventions that are considered within the public domain. Many kinesiology interventions may also be perceived to be within the scope of practice of another profession. More and more frequently Kinesiologists are attending educational training programs and augmenting their kinesiology knowledge base with methods derived from other bodies of knowledge, such as ultrasound, aroma therapy and behaviour modification (psychology). These enhanced skills are often used within the scope of practice of kinesiology to assist meeting the needs of clients. It is expected that this trend will increase over time as alternative therapies and other forms of intervention become more common place and are considered useful in the management of human health and fitness.

This gives rise to the question: When is it more appropriate to cease presenting oneself as a kinesiologist to the public and to instead present oneself as a practitioner of another regulated or unregulated provider group?

### **BCAK Standards & Ethics (Member Accountability)**

Members are responsible for ensuring they have the education, skills, training, experience and resources to safely and competently deliver the assessment, treatment or intervention within their kinesiology practice. Furthermore, they are responsible for ensuring that they are functioning within the scope of practice of kinesiology when using the title kinesiologist or abbreviation.

Assessment(s) or intervention(s) that are not listed under the [Health Professions Council – Restricted Activities List](#) are considered to be within the public domain. Kinesiologists have not been given permission by the government to perform any reserved acts, unless appropriately delegated to them by a health care professional who is permitted to undertake reserved acts and in turn able to delegate the performance of those acts, subject to their supervising the person doing so.

Where a kinesiologist augments his or her practice with a new public domain skill, which falls within the defined scope of practice, the kinesiologist would be seen to be practicing within the scope of the profession. For example, if a therapist uses relaxation therapy to assist a client with stress management in conjunction with exercise therapy, this would not be considered dual practice. However, if a kinesiologist uses relaxation therapy to assist a client in labour and delivery of a child, he/she would be functioning outside the scope of practice of kinesiology and would be required to distinctly separate this service from all kinesiology services and appropriately inform their client.

When intervention includes an appropriately delegated controlled act that is within the scope of practice of kinesiology and the competency of the kinesiologist, they may include the act within his/her kinesiology practice. If, however the therapist is also a registrant of a health regulatory college in BC that has authority to perform a controlled act, and he or she is not receiving delegation for that act, it is imperative that the therapist separate his or her practice and not hold him/herself out to be a kinesiologist when performing that act.

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## **Position on Dual Practice**

**The application of any knowledge-based skill for a purpose that does not fall within the scope of practice of kinesiology is not considered kinesiology and a Practicing member of the BCKA should not perform the act in his or her capacity while presenting themselves as a kinesiologist to the public.**

## **Additional Issues**

To adhere to the guidelines in this document it is important to also address the following issues:

### **1. Business Practice**

- a. When engaged in dual practice, a kinesiologist must ensure that the client is aware of which profession he or she is practicing at any given time, thereby assisting the client in understanding if any regulatory college, has primary jurisdiction over his or her performance. This is best achieved by booking separate appointments, issuing separate bills, etc.

### **2. Maintenance of Records**

- a. In the circumstance of dual practice, the maintenance of separate records is advised. This would include, but is not limited to, all clinical, financial and administration records.
- b. Appointment schedules should also be maintained separately. Kinesiologists are responsible for ensuring that kinesiology records are maintained according to BCKA "Practice Standards" guidelines.

### **3. Conflict of Interest**

- a. The potential for conflict of interest issues to arise is heightened when engaging in dual practice. It is particularly important that the practitioner is not seen to be referring to him or herself for personal gain. Individuals participating in dual practice should manage the potential for conflict of interest according to the Practice guidelines on conflict of interest.

## **Summary**

Kinesiologists actively developing and augmenting their practice must give careful consideration to whether they are utilizing these skills within the scope of kinesiology. This position statement serves as broad guidance on delineating dual practice when required.

For additional information on scope of practice see also: *Scope of Practice, Reserved Acts and Delegation (including member guidelines)*