



This standard of practice is to support the PSW in providing safe, respectful, and effective personal care to the public population in a dignified and ethical approach. Standards of Practice outline the expectations of the PSW and their responsibility in the delivery of care.

Dressing - The act of putting on or taking off clothing garments.

If the person(s) is unable to hold themselves up in a sitting position without assisted support or if the person(s) is unable to dress themselves, the person(s) would need a Personal Support Worker for this task. Often a person(s) may have one limb or one side of the body that is weak or compromised and is unable to use that limb for dressing themselves, thus requiring assistance of a PSW. The PSW may assist the person(s) in dressing when assistance includes using ordinary clothing and / or the application of over the counter (OTC) support stockings and / or the application of simple limb splints such as those purchased OTC and without a physician's prescription. The PSW may apply anti-embolic pressure stockings or prescribed orthopedic devices such as braces or splints if the person(s) have either a) already been using the device prior to care starting and is a part of the care plan or b) when directed by an RHP. As these pressure devices may cause further vessel damage if not applied correctly, it is important that the PSW has received the proper training in their certification curriculum and also it is important for the PSW to be aware of the policy of the facility that they are working in. The pressure devices must be noted in the Plan of Care and are ordered by the physician and measured by an RHP such as an RN / RPN.

PSW – Personal Support Worker

RN/RPN – Registered Nurse/ Registered Practical Nurse

RHPA – Regulated Health Professions Act

Resources - Sheila A. Sorrentino, PhD, RN, Leighann Remmert, MS, RN and Mary J. Wilk, RN, GNC(C), BA, BScN, MN, Mosby's Canadian Textbook for the Support Worker, 3rd Edition