

Fact Sheet:

Publicly-Funded Physiotherapy Clinics in Ontario

Who is eligible for publicly-funded physiotherapy in Ontario?

A person must:

- be referred by a doctor or nurse practitioner after being found to require physiotherapy services through an assessment
- be insured by OHIP under the Health Insurance Act
- be within one of the following categories:
 - aged 65 years and older
 - aged 19 years and younger, or
 - recently discharged from a hospital with a condition, illness or injury that requires physiotherapy clinic services

OR

- be referred by a doctor or nurse practitioner after an assessment finds physiotherapy services are required, and be eligible for funding under the Ontario Disability Support or Ontario Works programs

Am I eligible if I have a chronic disease?

People with chronic diseases including arthritis or multiple sclerosis can receive publicly-funded physiotherapy at a clinic if they meet the eligibility criteria above.

How many visits can I receive?

People who are eligible for publicly-funded physiotherapy are not limited to a specific number of visits to treat an injury or health-related issue. The number and frequency of visits is determined by the treating physiotherapist, who will assess the level of physiotherapy required and develop a treatment plan. Treatment will be provided until eligible people have reached their goals as indicated in their treatment plans. Eligible people can also be treated for multiple injuries or health-related issues at the same time.

Do I have to pay to use publicly-funded clinic-based physiotherapy?

No. Eligible people do not have to pay to access publicly-funded, clinic-based physiotherapy in Ontario. Funding provided by the province covers the assessment, diagnosis, physiotherapy treatment (including on-site clinic use of equipment or supplies) and discharge report. The cost of equipment or supplies recommended for individual home use is not covered. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care does not set or regulate services or fees by clinics beyond what is covered.

When will I stop receiving publicly-funded physiotherapy sessions?

If you are currently receiving publicly-funded physiotherapy at a clinic, your sessions will stop when:

- you have achieved your goals, as set during the assessment with your physiotherapist
- you can achieve the set goals on your own
- you can achieve the set goals in an exercise or falls prevention class
- you are unlikely to improve from any further physiotherapy, or
- you determine independently that no further treatment is required

The clinic can provide you with information about how to manage your condition and any programs nearby that can help, including exercise and falls prevention classes.

What if I require physiotherapy in my home?

If you require physiotherapy in your home because you are unable to attend a clinic, please contact your local [Community Care Access Centre \(CCAC\)](#) or call 310-CCAC (2222).

What if I live in a long-term care home and need physiotherapy?

Long-term care home residents found to require physiotherapy will be provided with physiotherapy services in their homes at no cost to them. The frequency and duration of the physiotherapy will be determined during an assessment done by a registered physiotherapist. Residents can organize an assessment by speaking with the regulated health professional (physician, nurse practitioner or physiotherapy provider) in their home.

Where can I find a list of publicly-funded physiotherapy clinics?

A list of publicly-funded physiotherapy locations can be found at [Ontario.ca/physiotherapy](https://ontario.ca/physiotherapy). Alternatively, you can visit the Health Care Options website at ontario.ca/healthcareoptions or contact your local Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) by visiting healthcareathome.ca or by calling 310-CCAC (2222).

I have other questions. Who can I contact?

If you have further questions about publicly-funded physiotherapy in Ontario, please visit the Health Care Options website for more information at ontario.ca/healthcareoptions. Alternatively you can call the Seniors' INFOLine at 1-866-910-1999, or TTY: 1-800-387-5559.