



Canadian
Physiotherapy
Association

Association
canadienne de
physiothérapie

Position Statement

Access to Physiotherapy

All Canadians have a right to timely and reliable access to rehabilitation for treatment of illness, injury, and disease without barriers such as financial restraints or availability of the service.

Physiotherapists are primary care providers who restore function and improve the mobility of Canadians across the lifespan. Early access to physiotherapy treatment positively affects health outcomes, physical functioning, and quality of life.

Health care restructuring has resulted in reduced access to physiotherapists in all practice settings such as publicly-funded hospitals, publicly-funded community centres, and private practice centres.

Access to rehabilitation is limited by funding, referral practices, and health human resources. Decreased or delayed access to rehabilitation can negatively affect a patient's health and quality of life.

The Canadian Physiotherapy Association is committed to addressing the barriers to access to physiotherapy through advocacy initiatives with government, associations, employers and third-party payers. Improved access to physiotherapy services is a necessity for the continued health and well being of Canadians.

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