



Canadian
Physiotherapy
Association

Association
canadienne de
physiothérapie

Position Statement

Funding for Physiotherapy

All Canadians have the right to access rehabilitation services that are essential to the effective management of illness, injury, and disability. Physiotherapy, for example, positively affects the clinical outcome and cost of treating both chronic and acute conditions.¹ It is cost-effective in treating orthopaedic conditions,^{2,3} costs less when provided in community versus in-patient settings,^{4,5} and shortens length of stay in intensive care units.³

Adequate funding is essential to achieve the benefits of physiotherapy and other rehabilitation services. Variations in provincial policies and healthcare delivery practices, and privately-funded and workplace insurance plans have resulted in inconsistent funding and access to rehabilitation services throughout Canada.

The Canadian Physiotherapy Association is committed to working with funders to develop optimum service models that provide all Canadians with better access to high quality rehabilitative care.

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¹ Freburger JK, Hurley R E. Ancillary service utilization in academic health centres: use of physical therapy in treatment of stroke and hip arthroplasty. *Journal of Clinical Outcomes Management* 2000; 7(8):20-26.

² Bulthuis Y, Mohammad S, Braakman-Jansen LMA, Drossaers-Bakker KW, van de Laar MAF. Cost-effectiveness of intensive exercise therapy directly following hospital discharge in patients with arthritis: results of a randomized controlled clinical trial. *Arthritis and Rheumatism*. 2008; 59(2):247.

³ Peterson LE, Goodman C, Karnes EK, Chen CJ, Schwartz JA. Assessment of the quality of cost analysis literature in physical therapy. *Physical Therapy*. 2009; 89(8):733.

⁴ Harrington R, Taylor G, Hollinghurst S, Reed M, Kay H, Wood VA. A community-based exercise and education scheme for stroke survivors: a randomized controlled trial and economic evaluation. *Clinical Rehabilitation*. 2010; 24(1): 3.

⁵ Jessep SA, Walsh NE, Ratcliffe J, Hurley MV. Long-term clinical benefits and costs of an integrated rehabilitation programme compared with outpatient physiotherapy for chronic knee pain. *Physiotherapy*. 2009; 95(2):94.