

Ministry of Health

Physician Relations and Contract
Oversight Branch
Physician and Provider Services
Division

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Ministère de la Santé

Direction des relations avec les
médecins et de la surveillance des
contrats
Division des services de médecin et
des services aux professionnels

15^{ème} étage, 56, rue Wellesley
Ouest

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 16, 2024

TO: Program Recipients
Hospitals and Community Health Centres Operating Physiotherapy
Clinics
Community Physiotherapy Clinic Program

FROM: Andrew Homer
Program Manager (A)
Physician Relations & Contract Oversight Branch

RE: Removal of the Requirement for a Primary Care Provider Referral

Dear Program Recipients:

Per the communication on March 26, this is in follow-up to provide additional information on the removal of the requirement for a referral from a primary care provider (e.g., physician or nurse practitioner) for government-funded physiotherapy services.

Effective April 1, 2024, a referral from a primary care provider is no longer required for patients to access government-funded physiotherapy services. A patient can 'self-refer' and contact a physiotherapy clinic directly and make an appointment to access government-funded physiotherapy services. Other eligibility criteria are documented in the amending agreement and operational policies manual.

The Ontario Medical Association and Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario are supportive of the removal of the referral requirement. Physicians and nurse practitioners will be notified that a referral is no longer needed to access government-funded physiotherapy services.

Patients will be notified by updates to the following website: [Physiotherapy clinics \(government-funded\) | ontario.ca](#). Also, the ministry is updating the program's patient information sheet which is provided to patients by clinics and the ministry. The ministry will share these updates with the Ontario Medical Association, Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario, Ontario Physiotherapy Association, College of Physiotherapists of Ontario, and Ontario Health.

If a patient brings a referral from a primary care provider, please accept the referral and continue to document and maintain the referral in the patient's record; provide the referring physician or nurse practitioner with a discharge summary report; and include the referring physician or nurse practitioner Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) billing number on all reporting, systems, files, records, etc.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the ministry at MOH.PhysiotherapyAgreements@ontario.ca

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Homer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, stylized capital 'A'.

Andrew Homer
Program Manager (A)