

Dear Doctors;

Grand River Physiotherapy (aka Harrington Physiotherapy) has been providing community care physiotherapy for over 30 years. Within the last few years, the Ministry of Health has made several cuts to the physiotherapy program.

The MOH will fund eligible patients up to \$312/Episode of Care. Eligible candidates are those individuals:

Under 19 years of age

Over 65 years of age

On Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) or Ontario Works (OW)

Have been admitted/spent overnight in the hospital and require physiotherapy for the nature of the injury causing them to be hospitalized

Furthermore, if the client is in receipt of ODSP or OW, a letter of eligibility from their case worker needs to be present in the clinic prior to scheduling the appointment.

We have received many physiotherapy referrals over the past few years that list multiple problems on one referral letter. This compromises the patient's ability to access maximal funding as the government assumes each referral constitutes one single "Episode of Care (EOC)". The funding available for each EOC is \$312. If the referral lists, for example, right knee pain and left shoulder pain then the government assumes these injuries are related and further expects both injuries to be treated for a total of \$312. If separate referrals are given, each with different dates, for each injury then the patient can receive \$312 of funding for each injury for example \$312 for the right knee and \$312 for the left shoulder for a total of \$624.

We would not ask that this procedure be followed except we have been audited in the past and funds have been clawed back meaning they have not accepted that two injuries are unrelated and insist that we receive \$312 instead of \$624 for these injuries despite the fact physiotherapy has been provided as if these injuries were unrelated which is typically the case.

EOC funding is meant only to treat acute injuries. If a client has a chronic injury, for example, back pain, but suffers an acute exacerbation, then they are eligible for EOC funding. This is not a yearly entitlement but an entitlement based on need

determined by their reinjuring themselves. They could come twice in one year for the same body part treatment if they've suffered a reinjury.

In summary in order to optimize the funding for each patient:

- 1. Each referral should only have 1 body part listed (e.g., Right Knee or Left Knee)**
- 2. If multiple referrals are given on the same day, the referrals must have different dates**
- 3. Funding is meant to treat acute injuries therefore for chronic injuries EOC funding is not a yearly entitlement but one based on reinjury.**

We thank you for your assistance in ensuring your client can access optimal funding under the MOH fee guidelines.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support we hope this clarifies the referral process.

Respectfully,
Frances Harrington,
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