

Reserved Activities in Physiotherapy

ASSESSING NEUROMUSCULOSKELETAL FUNCTION IN A PERSON HAVING A PHYSICAL FUNCTION LIMITATION OR DISABILITY¹

This reserved activity allows the physiotherapist to form a clinical opinion on the physical condition of a patient based on information gathered during the physiotherapy assessment. After analyzing this information, the physiotherapist comes to a conclusion about the patient's physical condition, i.e., they make a physiotherapy diagnosis.

The physiotherapy diagnosis determines the nature and severity of the health problem and its impact on the patient's ability to function based on personal and environmental factors. The diagnosis guides the physiotherapist in providing treatment and helps them select the most appropriate interventions.²

In physiotherapy, the assessment focuses on the patient's physical function in relation to their neurological, muscular, and skeletal systems. During the assessment, the physiotherapist considers the interaction between these three systems.

Furthermore, in light of the description of the scope of physiotherapy practice and its aim, the neuromusculoskeletal assessment takes into account the condition of the cardiopulmonary system, as necessary, since it is also a determinant of physical function.

Finally, this reserved activity includes the assessment of patients with a physical function impairment³ (limitation) or disability.⁴

AUTHORIZED MEMBERS

Physiotherapists

CERTIFICATION

No OPPQ training certificate is required to practice this reserved activity.

SHARED

This activity is not reserved exclusively to physiotherapists. It is shared by a number of healthcare professionals, including physicians and occupational therapists, subject to the aims described in their respective scopes of practice.

¹ Section 37.1, Subsection 3 of the *Professional Code*.

² *Cahier explicatif du Règlement sur les dossiers, les lieux d'exercice, les équipements et la cessation d'exercice des membres de l'Ordre professionnel de la physiothérapie du Québec* (2015), p. 10, available on the OPPQ website (in French).

³ According to the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities, and Handicaps, an impairment is defined as an alteration in organic function or anatomical structure.

⁴ According to the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities, and Handicaps, a physical disability corresponds to a reduction or elimination of a person's ability to perform a physical activity.