

# Physiotherapy Association of British Columbia

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## RECOMMENDED FEE GUIDELINES

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The Physiotherapy Association of British Columbia (PABC) recommends fee guidelines based its regular review of provincial market rates, and the Canadian Physiotherapy Association's national cost of business study which determines the Cost Per Average Visit (calculated by dividing a clinic's total annual costs by the total annual number of patient visits). With this data, PABC members independently determine their rates which they adjust according to variances in a clinic's cost of providing service and the prevailing market. Clinic fees reflect time spent directly with the physiotherapist.

Physiotherapist-provided services are charged at the physiotherapist's hourly rate; PABC recommends \$190 per hour, e.g.

<b>20'</b>	<b>30'</b>	<b>45'</b>	<b>60'</b>
<b>\$63</b>	<b>\$95</b>	<b>\$143</b>	<b>\$190</b>

### **TREATMENT FEES**

**INITIAL: Includes** assessment, history, and treatment; the average initial visit is 45 minutes of direct care.

**SUBSEQUENT:** The average treatment visit includes one-on-one direct care (this is the billed time), as well as indirect care (e.g. supervised therapeutic exercise). The fee depends on the length of direct physiotherapist time; the average is 30 minutes and varies among physiotherapists from 20-60 minutes.

### **INSURER-RELATED CLINIC FEES:**

When insurer (e.g. ICBC, MSP) rates are below clinic fees, clinics typically charge patients the difference; this clinic fee plus the insurer rate should total the customary clinic fee.

### **PHYSIOTHERAPY PROFESSIONAL OPINION FEE:**

Services requiring a physiotherapist's professional expertise and opinion are charged at the same hourly rate as physiotherapy therapeutic services (recommended fee \$190/hr, as above).

Physiotherapists charge for their time at the hourly rate according to the amount of time required to provide the service including time billed for:

- Court appearance as an Expert or Lay Witness
- Preparation/writing of reports
- Telephone consultation

For example: court appearance requiring 4hrs out of the clinic (including travel time) is charged at \$760; a medical-legal report requiring 1.5hrs to write is charged at \$285; a phone call with a lawyer requiring 15 minutes is charged at \$47.50.

### **CLINICAL CHART COPIES**

**Hourly Rate + \$1/pg**

The fee charged for producing a copy of a record is comprised of the cost of the physiotherapist's time (at \$190/hr) plus administrative time (at \$20/hr) in addition to the copy fee per page.

For example:

- Entire chart (based on a 10 page chart): 10 minutes for the physiotherapist to review the chart (\$32) + 30 minutes for the administrator to pull the chart, copy, collate and package 10 pages (\$10) + \$10 for the copied pages = \$52
- Specific details of chart: 20 minutes for the physiotherapist to select specific chart notes (\$63) + 30 minutes for the administrator to copy, collate and package 5 chart pages (\$10) + \$5 for the copied pages = \$78

\*Refer to the College of Physical Therapists of BC's Bylaw 59(4) (Access to Health Care Records) [cptbc.org](http://cptbc.org) and to the PABC Privacy Statement at [bcphysio.org](http://bcphysio.org)

### **PHYSIOTHERAPIST'S FEES VARY ACCORDING TO:**

- Exceptional skill, expertise, areas of special practice;
- Unusual complexity of the condition being treated;
- Emergency call, or treatment required beyond regular practice hours.

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