

April 15, 2025

Dr. Jane Philpott
Chair, Primary Care Action Team

Subject: Increasing capacity to attach more people to primary care teams

Dear Dr. Philpott,

As your organization moves forward to increase patient attachment rates for primary care teams in Ontario, the Ontario Physiotherapy Association (OPA) is eager to assist in the development and support of plans to include physiotherapists as an effective way to increase capacity of primary care teams. Currently only a few primary care teams include physiotherapists.

First contact roles for physiotherapists, who independently diagnose and manage musculoskeletal conditions, have demonstrated effectiveness in improving patient outcomes and reducing costs.

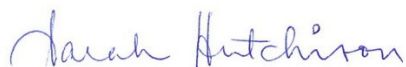
- Approximately 20-30% of primary care visits are for musculoskeletal conditions,^{1, 2}
- Based on clinical experience in physiotherapy in primary care settings and suggested attachment rates for physicians, OPA estimates that a physiotherapist on an interprofessional primary care team can increase attachment rates by approximately 250 active patients, or 425 total rostered patients (on average).

Other supports from OPA at all points of development include:

- Free educational modules to support PTs in primary care, developed through evidence-based and consensus processes – [Preparing PTs for Team-based Primary Care](#)
- Consultation on applications to the Primary Care Action Team
- Resources and individualized support for recruitment and retention, including job descriptions, compensation reports, interview guides and free job postings.

Please contact the OPA for support and more information, by email to Amy Hondronicols, OPA's Director of Practice, Policy and Member Services, at ahondronicols@opa.on.ca.

Sincerely,



Sarah Hutchison, MHSc., LL.M, ICD.D
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Chief Executive Officer
Ontario Physiotherapy Association



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¹ MacKay C, Canizares M, Davis AM & Badley EM. Health care utilization for musculoskeletal disorders. *Arthritis Care & Research*. 2010; 62(2): 161-169. Retrieved December 2023 from <https://doi.org/10.1002/acr.20064>.

² Power JD, Perruccio AV, Paterson JM, Canizares M, Veillette C, Coyte PC et al. Healthcare utilization and costs for musculoskeletal disorders in Ontario, Canada. *J Rheumatol*. 2022; 49(7): 740-747. Retrieved March 2025 from <https://www.jrheum.org/content/49/7/740>.

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