

BILLING for Group/Class Sessions

The Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists issues Advisory Statements to provide guidance to members on practice issues. This Advisory will address billing of group or class treatment sessions.

What is a Group/Class?

Any time you have a ratio of two or more patients per physiotherapist it is considered a group or class.

Is it Physiotherapy? *(Questions to help you determine if the treatment is physiotherapy)*

- ◇ Is this class being used to treat a specific neuromuscular, musculoskeletal or cardio respiratory condition or disorder associated with physical dysfunction, injury or pain? To achieve or maintain a level of physical function required for specific goals?
- ◇ Has there been an assessment? Will there be regular reviews and re-assessments?
- ◇ Is it part of the physiotherapy treatment plan with specific goals to be achieved?
- ◇ Is there regular documentation as required by the NSCP Practice Standards?
- ◇ Is the physiotherapist conducting the class or do they have oversight of the class and instructor?

Indications for Billing Group/Class Sessions as Physiotherapy

- ✓ Each physiotherapy patient must have an initial assessment during which the determination is made that, as part of their treatment program, they would benefit from specific exercises.
- ✓ The classes chosen must be dependant upon the results of the assessment, the treatment goals set by the physiotherapist and the patient, and the specific exercises needed.
- ✓ Documentation and records are in accordance with the NSCP requirements. There must be documentation of regular reassessment and of individual progress, or lack thereof.
- ✓ The class must be conducted by a physiotherapist or by a trained support worker to whom the physiotherapist assigns the specific care / exercises needed.
- ✓ The physiotherapist retains oversight of the class and the patient, and regularly reassesses the patient and progresses the exercises in accordance to the goals set.

Considerations for Billing Group/Class Services as Physiotherapy

Physiotherapists must not charge a set fee for packaged or bundled services (i.e. a block fee) unless:

- The patient is told what services are covered, the cost of each service and the total cost
- The patient has the option to buy one service at a time
- The patient has the option to receive a refund for unused services
- The fee for each service appears accurately on the billing or account.

Professional Responsibilities

Physiotherapists must consider ethical and professional obligations in maintaining professional integrity. The physiotherapist must not continue services to a client when the services are no

longer required by the client. The physiotherapist only provides professional services in situations where there is a demonstrated need for the services. A physiotherapist shall not render service in any situation that will compromise his/her professional integrity, standard of practice, or place him/her in a conflict of interest. A conflict of interest arises when a physiotherapist's actions or decisions may reasonably be perceived to be, or are in fact, motivated or influenced by financial gain or the potential for financial gain.

References and Resources:

http://nsphysio.com/resources/Physio_Code_of_Ethics.pdf (Link will be revised to reflect the new National Code of Ethics)

<http://nsphysio.com/resources/2015+05+27+Standard+Professional+Practice+Standards+for+Physiotherapists+Competency+Based.pdf> (link will be revised to the National Code of Ethics)

<http://nsphysio.com/resources/Advisory+Statement+Chart+Legibility+Feb+2014.pdf>

<http://nsphysio.com/resources/Referrals+and+Financial+Benefits+Practice+Standard+final+revision2.pdf>

<http://nsphysio.com/resources/Supervision+and+Task+Assignment+Standard+2011.pdf>