

Publicly-funded physio assessments in Winnipeg

ARE DOWN

85%

since services were consolidated in 2017

Fewer access points and narrower criteria

In late 2017, outpatient services for adult musculoskeletal care were reduced from eight hospital departments to one.

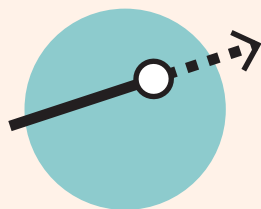
Eligibility restrictions on publicly-funded outpatient physiotherapy further reduced access to those needing care.

Faster to assess, slower to discharge



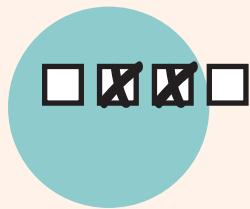
Wait times have decreased

Since consolidation, the average wait time for an assessment decreased from 15 days to 7 days.



Discharges take longer

The treatment duration—the time from initial assessment to patient discharge—increased after consolidation.



Patients see their therapist less

The number of appointments per patient decreased after consolidation.

Access to fee-based clinics is not equal

A previous study showed that, compared to the Winnipeg population, people who attend private physiotherapy clinics:



have higher incomes



have more education



less often identify as Indigenous or a visible minority

Monthly publicly-funded assessments

now and **before** consolidation

Now

000

6,715 total

Dec 2017 - Dec 2022
(61 months)

Before

794

18,261 total

Jan 2016 - Nov 2017
(23 months)

Cervical spine



6.3 35.9

Shoulder



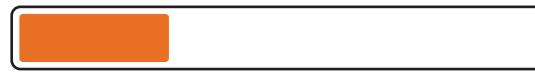
8.3 109.5

Elbow



3.0 22.7

Wrist/hand



43.8 154.7

Lumbar spine



20.0 122.1

Hip



2.3 59.9

Knee



5.5 167.4

Ankle



4.6 32.7

Foot



1.7 13.8

Misc.



4.4 43.3

Not included in the totals above due to limited numbers:

Thoracic spine/ribs – Now: 0.9/month • Before: 6.4/month

Head – Now: 0.1/month • Before: 1.1/month

Where diagnosis was not included on a report, it was counted as an assessment, but not assigned a specific body part.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Collect higher quality rehab data

Standardize the recording of accurate, complete demographic information and diagnosis categories.

Address the gaps to accessing care

To improve access to publicly-funded outpatient services, add income-based eligibility criteria for diagnoses currently deemed ineligible to receive physiotherapy care. Most provinces have measures in place to address such inequities to access of care.