



Definition of a physiotherapy practice

APA Standards for Physiotherapy Practices (8th edition)

The Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) has developed Standards for Physiotherapy Practices (8th edition) as a membership service available to APA members.

The standards are owned by the Australian Physiotherapy Association and are designed to help physiotherapy practices in the private sector deliver safe, high quality health care and embrace continuous quality improvement as good business practice.

There are five categories of standards which cover:

- rights and needs of clients,
- practice services,
- practice management,
- physical environment, and
- quality physiotherapy.

A physiotherapy practice provides comprehensive and co-ordinated primary physiotherapy care which is clinically justifiable ¹ and which seeks to improve or maintain a person's status in relation to impairments, activity limitations, participation restrictions and/or quality of life.

In addition, a physiotherapy practice which is part of a multidisciplinary practice exerts independent clinical decision making and adequate control over practice services, practice management and the physical environment.

A physiotherapy practice seeking accreditation must provide services that accord with these definitions.

Accreditation against the APA Standards for Physiotherapy Practices

Accreditation against the APA Standards for Physiotherapy Practices is awarded independently of the Association by Quality in Practice Pty Ltd (QIP) a subsidiary of Australian General Practice Accreditation Limited (AGPAL).

Defining a physiotherapy practice for the purpose of accreditation

As the author and owner of the APA Standards for Physiotherapy Practices (8th edition), the APA reserves the right to mandate the following definitions of a physiotherapy practice for the purpose of accreditation against the standards.

Eligibility criteria

Only physiotherapy practices which comply with the Association's interpretation of a physiotherapy practice and which also satisfy the following criteria, will be eligible for accreditation against the APA Standards for Physiotherapy Practices (8th edition):

¹ Australian Physiotherapy Association (2003): APA Position Statement: Clinical Justification and Outcome Measures, APA, Melbourne.

- The physiotherapy practice must be operating as a private practice.
- The physiotherapy practice must offer physiotherapy services provided by a registered physiotherapist and may offer a range of other health care services.
- At least one practice principal must be a registered physiotherapist and a financial member of the APA.
- The physiotherapy practice, whether a main practice or a branch practice, must be able to be assessed against each and every Standard and Criterion in the APA Standards for Physiotherapy Practices (8th edition).

Practices which do not meet the eligibility criteria

If a physiotherapy practice applies for accreditation against the APA Standards for Physiotherapy Practices (8th edition) but is subsequently found not to meet the APA's definition of a physiotherapy practice or eligibility criteria for accreditation, the practice will be liable for any costs incurred by QIP in conducting an accreditation visit.

Approved by the APA Board of Directors September 2007.