

# Physiotherapy services for older people

Policy statement

© World Physiotherapy 2023  
[www.world.physio](http://www.world.physio)



---

**Recommended citation:** World Physiotherapy. Policy statement: Physiotherapy services for older people. London, UK: World Physiotherapy; 2023. Available from: <https://world.physio/policy/ps-older-people>

---

# Physiotherapy services for older people

World Physiotherapy advocates for member organisations to work with legislative and regulatory bodies, advocacy groups and service providers to incorporate the following principles into their national planning and programmes for older people.(1)

- Physiotherapists with appropriate knowledge and experience should be actively involved in developing policy and planning relating to services for older people at local, national and international levels.
- Prompt and coordinated services, including promotion, prevention, treatment/intervention, rehabilitation and palliative care provided by physiotherapists should be available and accessible to older people experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, limitations in their ability to function optimally.
- Physiotherapy services for older people through primary health care, including services delivered in the community, care homes or out-patient clinics.
- Physiotherapy services should be available for all older people regardless of their circumstances. Particular regard should be shown to those who do not have direct access to conventional services, for example older people in rural areas.
- Services for older people should be extended to people with characteristics of ageing acquired at a chronologically earlier age than the general population, regardless of the age at which “older person” is defined.

---

**Glossary** (<https://world.physio/resources/glossary>)

**Equity**

**Inclusion**

**Older people**

**Practice settings**

<b>Approval, review and related policy information</b>	
<b>Date adopted:</b>	Originally approved at the 13th General Meeting of WCPT, June 1995. Revised and re-approved at the 16th General Meeting of WCPT June 2007. Revised and re-approved at the 17th General Meeting of WCPT June 2011. Revised and re-approved at the 18th General Meeting of WCPT May 2015. Revised and re-approved at the 19th General Meeting of WCPT May 2019. Revised and re-approved at the 20 <sup>th</sup> General Meeting of WPCT May 2023.
<b>Date for review:</b>	2027
<b>Related World Physiotherapy policies:</b>	World Physiotherapy policy statements <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Specialisation</li></ul>

## References

1. World Health Organization. Ageing Geneva, Switzerland: WHO; 2023 [30 Nov 2023]. Available from: [https://www.who.int/health-topics/ageing#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/ageing#tab=tab_1).

© World Physiotherapy 2023