

Appendix A

Further details on systematic search

Table A1. Systematic search strategy for OVID Medline, EMBASE, CINAHL Plus with Full Text, and SportDiscus with Full Text. Search terms were modified slightly to fit the input requirements of each database. The search for these databases was completed on September 5th, 2023.

Search Concept	Search Terms
Wait times	wait time* or wait list* or waitlist* or (wait* adj6 appointment*) or time-to-treatment
Physiotherapy	physical therap* or physiotherap*
Canada	Canad* or British Columbia* or Alberta* or Saskatchewan or Manitoba* or Yukon or Northwest Territories or NWT or Nunavut or Ontario or Quebec* or Nova Scotia or Prince Edward Island or Newfoundland or Labrador or New Brunswick or Toronto or Vancouver or Montreal or Edmonton or Calgary or Winnipeg or Ottawa or Halifax

In CINAHL and SportDiscus adj6 was replaced with the equivalent N6.

Table A2. Systematic search strategy for Canada Research Index and Canada Commons. This search did not include the Canada search concept on the assumption that the database would only include Canadian literature.

Search Concept	Search Terms
Canada Research Index	
Wait times	waitlist OR waitlists OR "wait list" OR "wait lists" OR time-to-treatment
Physiotherapy	physical therap* OR physiotherap*
Canada Commons	
Wait times	"physical therapy" OR physiotherapy
Physiotherapy	title:(waitlist OR "wait time" OR "wait list" OR time-to-treatment)

Please note that * indicates a truncated term which will search for all words starting with that root, adj 6 indicates that the “word” wait must be within 6 words of “appointment”.

Gray Literature Search

The websites of the following organizations were searched by hand for any results including the word “wait.” As such, the websites of the following organizations were searched by hand for any documents or pages containing the word “wait”:

Table A3. Websites searched for gray literature.

Website Searched	Number of Results
Canadian Physiotherapy Association (physiotherapy.ca)	3
Physiotherapy Association of British Columbia (bcphysio.org)	0
College of Physical Therapists of British Columbia (cptbc.org)	3
Alberta Association of Physiotherapy (albertaphysio.com)	0
College of Physiotherapists of Alberta (cpta.ab.ca)	0
Saskatchewan Physiotherapy Association (saskphysio.org)	2
Saskatchewan College of Physical Therapists (scpt.org)	0
Manitoba Physiotherapy Association (mbphysio.org)	0
College of Physiotherapists of Manitoba (manitobaphysio.com)	1
Ontario Physiotherapy Association (opa.on.ca)	1
College of Physiotherapists of Ontario (collegept.org)	4
Ordre professionnel de la physiothérapie du Québec (oppq.pc.ca)	0
Newfoundland and Labrador Physiotherapy Association (nlphysiotherapyassociation.com)	0
Newfoundland and Labrador College of Physiotherapists (nlcpt.com)	0
Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists (nsphysio.com)	0
Nova Scotia Physiotherapy Association (physiotherapyns.ca)	1
New Brunswick Physiotherapy Association (nbphysioassociation.net)	0
New Brunswick College of Physiotherapists (cptnb.ca)	0
Prince Edward Island Physiotherapy Association (peipa.ca)	0
Prince Edward Island College of Physiotherapy (peicpt.com)	0
Total results from gray literature search outside databases:	15

It should be noted that a Google search was done to try to find official websites for the PT colleges and associations of the Northwest Territories, the Yukon, and Nunavut, but no results were found.

Appendix B

Table B1. Publicly funded PT services in Canada,

Region	Description of services
Atlantic Canada (PEI, NS, NB, NL)	All provinces in this region provide publicly-funded physiotherapy as long as it is within the hospital setting [8,47–49]. However, PEI provides additional PT for children under kindergarten age [50].
Northern Canada (YT, NWT, NU)	All territories in this region cover physiotherapy when performed in a hospital setting [51–53]. In addition, the Yukon will provide physiotherapy for children with disabilities [54].
Ontario	Available for people with valid Ontario Health Insurance Plan aged over 65 or below 19, people at any age after an overnight hospital stay for a condition requiring PT, or people at any age receiving Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program. Services vary by location [55].
Quebec	Physiotherapy is publicly funded within a hospital, residential or long-term care center, or dedicated rehabilitation center [56].
Western Canada (BC, AB, SK, MB)	No provinces in this region have comprehensive PT coverage provided by the government but all cover it in some circumstances. In British Columbia and Alberta, physiotherapy is covered for individuals with low income [57,58], while in Manitoba and Saskatchewan whether PT is covered is dependent on where it is provided [59,60]. Some provinces in this region cover PT following hip or knee replacement surgery [57,61].