

PHYSIOTHERAPY



Summary of profession

Physiotherapy can be useful in the diagnosis and management of a wide range of injuries, disease processes and other conditions including: sport injuries, postural problems, arthritis, amputee rehab, spinal cord injuries, chronic lung diseases, heart surgery, stroke rehab, post fractures and joint replacements, nerve and tendon injuries and hand injuries.

Working hours, patterns and environment

You'll usually work 37.5 hours a week. You'll be based in a hospital or the community, in a health centre or clinic. You may also visit patients in their own homes. Physiotherapists have a physically demanding job because, often, they have to stoop, kneel, crouch, lift, and stand for extended periods.

Education and Skills

You'll need a physiotherapy degree from an accredited institution. Relevant paid or voluntary experience is highly recommended. Skills required include excellent communication skills, good manual skills and organisational and administrative skills.

Job and Growth Opportunities

With experience you could become self-employed and set up your own practice. Within some organisations you could progress to senior physiotherapist or move into health service management. You may also specialise in an area such as orthopaedics, sports therapy, occupational health or one that focuses on older people or children.