

# Economic Impact of Physiotherapy in Canada

Synopsis: Deloitte studied the clinical evidence for the cost-effectiveness of physiotherapy treatments and modelled the impact of expanding physiotherapy care on three specific diseases: osteoporosis, back pain, and coronary heart disease. Key findings are summarized below. Please see full report for further details and sources.



**The economic burden of illness in Canada totals \$236B each year,** with 30% of that total due to injuries and disorders of the musculoskeletal system, circulatory diseases; and neurological diseases.



**Canada lags peer countries in number of physiotherapists,** with a 62% increase required to bring ourselves to the OECD average of 1.10 physiotherapists per 1,000 population.



**Physiotherapy is effective at treating a wide variety of diseases,** resulting in faster recovery, reduced pain, fewer lost days of work, and cost savings to the healthcare system.



**Expanding physiotherapy to the OECD average could reduce the burden of illness,** with a \$144 million (3%) reduction in the burden of the three diseases we modeled.

*Research evidence shows that physiotherapy interventions generate positive net benefits for a wide range of disease and conditions, ranging from \$1,221 per patient for fall prevention to \$53,372 per patient for carpal tunnel syndrome. (See Report page 30)*

**Chart: Improved access to physiotherapy could reduce economic burden of diseases by tens of millions of dollars**

*Economic burden of coronary heart disease under physiotherapy access scenarios, 2022 (estimate)*

