

Information Sheet

General Information

Applying for registration as a Physiotherapy Specialist

The specialist scope of practice: Physiotherapy Specialist has been developed by the Board to recognise the advanced skills and knowledge of physiotherapists who have become advanced practitioners in their area of physiotherapy.

Applying for registration within the specialist scope of practice: Physiotherapy Specialist is a three-part process – The Portfolio Assessment, the Practical Clinical Assessment and the Panel Review. The fees are: NZ\$1,600.50 for the Portfolio Assessment and NZ\$1,622.500 for the Panel Review (both prices are GST inclusive). Please note that the application is responsible for the costs incurred by the Practical Clinical Assessment. The Panel Review will be at the Physiotherapy Board in Wellington, so the applicant may also incur additional costs here.

Once the Board has confirmed your eligibility to submit an application (following your submission of an Expression of Interest form), your application will only be accepted for processing if it is complete and accompanied by payment of the \$1,600.50 Portfolio Assessment fee.

Ensure that you submit an Application Pack using the most current forms and templates. Incomplete applications will be returned.

Scope of Practice

Physiotherapy Specialists are expert physiotherapists who have advanced education, knowledge and skills to practise within a specific area of clinical practice.

As specialist clinicians they demonstrate leadership in consultancy, education and research. They work collaboratively with the physiotherapy profession and within the wider health team across a range of health and disability settings. Physiotherapy Specialists actively participate and take a leadership role in professional activities, including local and national strategy and policy development. They work in partnership with individuals, whanau, families and communities to optimise health outcomes.

Areas of Specialty

The Board offers registration as a Physiotherapy Specialist in the following areas:

- Cardiorespiratory
- Continence and Women's Health
- Hand Therapy
- Musculoskeletal
- Neurology
- Occupational Health
- Older adults
- Paediatrics
- Pain
- Sports
- *The Board can also use their discretion if an applicant wants to apply to be a physiotherapy specialist in an area that is not on this list, on a case by case basis.*

Specialist Competencies

Applicants are required to provide strong supporting evidence to show that they have met/are meeting the Board's specialist competencies in relation to their nominated area of specialty:

Competency 1: weighted 50%

Demonstrate and apply advanced knowledge, skills and behaviours to practise within the specialist area.

- 1.1. Demonstrate and apply advanced assessment processes
- 1.2. Demonstrate and apply advanced clinical reasoning and decision making skills
- 1.3. Demonstrate and apply advanced knowledge in specialist area
- 1.4. Demonstrate and apply advanced clinical management processes
- 1.5. Demonstrate and apply advanced skills and behaviours appropriate to improving healthcare options

Competency 2: weighted 25%

Demonstrate an active contribution to the physiotherapy knowledge base in the specialist area.

- 2.1. Critically appraise and synthesis research to inform practice
- 2.2. Actively participate in the research process
- 2.3. Demonstrate the ability to effect change in practice
- 2.4. Disseminate research findings

Competency 3: weighted 25%

Practise as a role model to the profession.

- 3.1. Provide leadership and expert advice in the specialist area of practice
- 3.2. Provide mentorship to physiotherapists
- 3.3. Contribute to the profession and other relevant organisations

Applicants must list the items of evidence they have chosen to include that demonstrate how they meet the 3 competencies in the Board's competency templates.

Eligibility Criteria

All applicants must hold registration within the general scope of practice: Physiotherapist and a current Annual Practising Certificate (APC) with the Physiotherapy Board.

Qualification

Applicants must provide evidence of successful completion of a minimum of a clinically focused postgraduate Master's Degree programme*, relevant to their nominated specialist area of physiotherapy practice.

* New Zealand Masters or equivalent

Work experience

Applicants must provide evidence of a minimum of 6 years FTE clinical practice normally completed in the last 10 years, 4 years of which years must be in the nominated specialty area of practice.

Applicants must have completed at least 1 year FTE clinical practice in New Zealand.

Additional Notes:

- The 4 years in the nominated specialty area of practice must be completed within the 10 years prior to submitting an application.

Within the application pack is a Curriculum Vitae template for applicants to provide detail of their physiotherapy work experience.

Applicants are also required to include in their application formal written confirmation, issued by the Human Resources department (or likewise), of the details of their employment from the last 6 practising years.

Multi-Source Feedback Questionnaire

The Board requires you to have both peers and patients/clients complete multi-source feedback questionnaires in support of your application. You must ensure that there are a minimum of **three** from patients/clients and a minimum of **four** from peers. You should include at least one of the following: physiotherapy peers, inter-professional peers, mentors and mentees. Peers who complete the questionnaire must have observed your practice/activities/behaviours within the past 24 months.

The multi-source feedback questionnaire is based on the Physiotherapy Board's Specialist Competencies. The questionnaire will be set up on Survey Monkey – when you submit your Expression of Interest and are invited to submit a full application, you would be emailed a link to the survey to distribute. Hard copy forms are also available on request. The responses from the questionnaire go directly to the Board and will be sent to the assessment panel; they are not seen by the applicant.

The Application Process

Receipt of Application

Once an application is received, it is given an administrative check to ensure that all the required documents are present and meet Board criteria.

If the application is incomplete or there are discrepancies in the information provided, it is returned to the applicant and an administration fee of \$150 is charged.

If the application is complete, the application is accepted and full payment of the \$1,600.50 portfolio assessment fee is processed.

The Board may contact the applicant at this stage requesting additional information to complete their application. Once all additional information is received (if required), the application will proceed through the Portfolio Assessment stage.

Stage 1: Portfolio Assessment

At the Portfolio Assessment stage, the Board's assessors examine the applicant's portfolio and measure it against the three specialist competencies.

If the competencies are met, the applicant is invited to proceed to Stage 2: The Practical Clinical Assessment.

If there is insufficient evidence within the portfolio that the applicant meets the specialist competencies, they are given one opportunity to provide further evidence. Once this additional information is reviewed, the applicant may either be declined registration as a Physiotherapy Specialist or offered the chance to proceed to Stage 2: The Practical Clinical Assessment.

Stage 2: Practical Clinical Assessment

If successful at the Portfolio Assessment stage, the applicant will proceed to Stage 2: The Practical Clinical Assessment. This will consist of an assessment of a complex patient, observed by two examiners, and a written report/findings. Following this there will be a discussion of the patient with the examiners.

The applicant is responsible for the costs associated with the practical clinical assessment. Further information will be available once the applicant reaches Stage 2.

Stage 3: Panel Review

The applicant is invited to meet with the Panel face to face to present their case for becoming registered as a Physiotherapy Specialist. Applicants are required to make a presentation to the Panel addressing the following:

- Describe your unique path to your current level of expertise
- In what way have you contributed to the physiotherapy profession or wider healthcare.
- Based on your knowledge and understanding of the current developments in the physiotherapy profession, how do you see yourself contributing to it in the future?

The Panel also has the opportunity at this stage to identify information they may wish to expand on.