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PHYSIOTHERAPY UNDER MEDICARE

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Patients who have a chronic condition and who have complex care needs may be eligible to receive funding from Medicare to attend up to five physiotherapy visits per year on referral from their GP.

This program also allows the eligible patient to seek services from other allied health disciplines such as audiologists, pharmacists or psychologists. However the eligible patient can only have up to a total of five sessions for all the allied health services per year e.g. 3 physiotherapy sessions, 1 podiatry session and 1 psychology session.

What is a chronic condition?

A chronic condition is a condition that is present or is likely to be present for over six months. Eg. Diabetes, osteoarthritis, cervical spondylosis, etc.

Do I have complex care needs?

Complex care needs are needs that require care from a team of health professionals, which include your GP, specialists and allied health professionals such as a physiotherapist or dietician. Your GP will determine if you require any of these services and then refer you to them as appropriate.

If I have a chronic or terminal condition and my GP determines that I have complex care needs that require the assistance of a physiotherapist what happens then? Am I eligible?

If your GP determines that you require physiotherapy, the physiotherapists at Endeavour Hills Physiotherapy can help. Your GP needs to fill out two forms. One is a 'GP Management Plan' (Item 721), and a 'Co-ordinating of Team Care Arrangements Plan' (Item 723). These forms need to be filled on separate occasions and are complex to complete. You may need a double appointment, so please let your Doctor's receptionist know when you make the appointment to see your GP.

When these forms are filled out, you should bring a copy of the "Co-ordinating of Team Care Arrangements Plan' and a referral form to us at your first appointment.

We recommend that you arrange an appointment over the phone to determine a time that is mutually convenient. Please do not forget to bring your Medicare card to each appointment.

Can I attend the clinic after I have used the allotted services for the year?

You may receive further physiotherapy treatment if deemed appropriate by your physiotherapist or GP. However, you will have to pay for the treatment privately. Current fees are displayed at reception. You may be eligible for a rebate if you have private health insurance that includes physiotherapy.

If you have any questions or queries about physiotherapy call us on 9700 1768 to discuss your circumstances.