

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

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PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ALL PHYSICIANS

CONSIDER USING 03.03CV to recall patients with diabetes, those awaiting orthopaedic consultation, and those with osteoarthritis for referral to our new programs.

Dear Valued Referring Physician:

These are tough times. First and foremost, we hope that all of you and your loved ones are staying safe and well, both physically and emotionally, through this ordeal. The pressure we are all struggling against is extreme, and if not for the support of our colleagues and families, for most of us it would be near unbearable. We at Physiologix want to recognize and salute Alberta's primary care physicians who remain faithfully on the "front lines" at great personal risk to continue to serve our mutual patients. All of us that work in medical clinics are trying to find ways to adapt to this unprecedented situation and in addition to having to discover and implement new virtual tools to be able to even work at all, many of us are not meeting our financial bottom lines. Understandably, patients are not presenting for their chronic or non-urgent health problems because of COVID restrictions, leading to a severe reduction in billing opportunities for fee-for-service physicians.

We are feeling these effects at Physiologix, too. As our valued primary care referrers are seeing fewer patients, we are in turn seeing a major decline in referrals and while we continue to work through our existing waitlist of consultations and followups, depending on how much longer the restrictions continue, we envision a near future wherein the available work completely dries up. However, we are resilient and ever-optimistic! This pandemic has provided us with a new opportunity to innovate novel (how appropriate!) and exciting ways to offer valuable help to previously-underserved patients—with the secondary beneficial effect of engaging all of us in previously untapped sources of virtual work.

We have identified several great mutually-beneficial ideas (see page 2) which will provide excellent service to our common patients as well as the potential to keep us all working via virtual care throughout the pandemic. The crux of these ideas is to identify good medical reasons for family doctors to perform virtual consultations with large selected subsets of their patient panel and then link those patients to these novel specialist care programs. If these services are popular, Physiologix will continue them indefinitely!

As we are gaining experience with virtual consultations, we are finding that patients are very grateful for preliminary virtual advice, knowing that they can also have a future in-person assessment. We are accepting referrals for the following new programs in addition to our typical services. Furthermore, if you have other ideas whereby our team at

Physiologix can help your patients, please send us an email to manager@physiologix.ca and we will be in touch with you.

We look forward to the eventual passing of these challenging times, but in the meantime we strongly believe that despite the profound adversity, we can continue to serve our patients well, and in many ways even better than before if we find new innovative and collaborative ways to work together.

In Solidarity,

The Team at Physiologix

PLEASE SEND REFERRALS FOR THE FOLLOWING SERVICES as well as for our typical services noted below (including EMG and nerve conduction studies) by secure email to md@physiologix.ca or by fax to 780-452-5111. **Important: for 03.03CV, be sure to document discussion (>10 minutes) of the encounter with your patient!**

1) High Risk Foot Clinic

Target Population: Any patient with diabetes or other cause of polyneuropathy

Action: Recall your patients in the Target Population and discuss the potential for a Physiatry consultation for prevention of wounds, infections, amputations, and falls. We will focus on establishing a clinical baseline, patient education for daily foot inspection and management, ensuring appropriate investigations, and initiation of appropriate chronic foot care and wound care, as required.

2) Patients Facing Long Waits for Orthopaedic Consultation

Target Population: Any patient awaiting orthopaedic consultation

Action: Recall your patients in the Target Population and discuss the potential for a Physiatry consultation. Physiatrists can provide temporizing, pre-habilitative, rehabilitative, and non-surgical management of orthopaedic problems to maximize function.

3) Osteoarthritis Clinic

Target Population: Any patient with osteoarthritis

Action: Recall your patients in the Target Population and discuss the potential for a Physiatry consultation. Physiatrists can provide targeted suggestions or interventions to maximize function and minimize the pain of osteoarthritic joints including imaging-guided injections, orthoses, gait aids, and tailored physical therapy programs.

PhysiologixMD Services:

- EMG/Nerve Conduction Testing • Complete Carpal Tunnel Management • Adult Physiatry and Neurology Consultations • Non-operative Fracture Care • Polyneuropathy and Complex Neuromuscular Disease Rehabilitation
- Spasticity Management • Pediatric Physiatry Consultations • Adult Cerebral Palsy Clinic • Acute MSK Clinic
- Myofascial Pain Program / Trigger Point Injections • MSK Ultrasound Guided Injections • Concussion Management
- Performing Arts Medicine Clinic • Amputee / Prosthetics and Orthotics Clinic • MVA Rehabilitation • IMEs

All incoming referrals are triaged promptly by a physician. **Expedited appointments are available for WCB claims.** Visit us online at www.physiologix.ca/md for referral forms, maps, more information, and to learn about available allied health services.