



Did you know that in British Columbia, Physiotherapists are legally allowed to use Physiotherapy Support Workers (PSW) to help to manage their caseload? PSW's can be Kinesiologists, Rehabilitation Assistants, yoga instructors, pilates instructors, or even people without formal training and are taught on the job!

The PSW's that New Leaf Physiotherapy hires are all certified Rehabilitation Assistants. What is a certified Rehabilitation Assistant? That means they have completed a comprehensive two year program at a post-secondary education, and have training in Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Language Pathology. They receive a Diploma once they have completed and passed their exams and internships.

PSW's can help you with your exercise routine, work on Activities of Daily Living (ADL's), and help you to get moving/walking. In addition, they communicate with the Physiotherapist who delegated them the client to work with. They let the Physiotherapist know if something has changed and the client needs to be reassessed.

What can a PSW **NOT** do? Some of the things that PSW's are not certified to perform include assessing the client, interpreting the findings of an assessment, or interpreting referrals, diagnoses, and prognoses. In addition, PSW's cannot perform any restricted activity as it relates to Physiotherapy, i.e. acupuncture/dry needling, or spinal manipulation. A comprehensive list of what PSW's cannot do can be found on the College of Health and Care Professionals of BC website. <https://chcpbc.org/>

Although we are legally allowed to use PSW's, there are some insurance companies that are no longer accepting/processing claims when the session has been completed with a PSW. These insurance companies that do not allow the use of PSW's cause an increased workload on the Physiotherapist. This increased workload prevents the Physiotherapist from seeing as many clients in a day. Seeing fewer clients in a day makes the waitlist longer to get in to see your Physiotherapist, and also limits clients from being seen as often as they would prefer. Due to this increased workload, we have changed our fee structure to reflect this.

**Only for those insurance companies that do not allow the usage of Physiotherapy support workers, New Leaf Physiotherapy is going to charge \$145/session. This is going to be effective on November 1, 2024.**

The insurance companies that allow the use of Physiotherapy support workers will not be affected by this change, and will continue to utilize our normal fee structure.