

Search:

Search was conducted on February 21, 2025 using Pubmed. Results were limited to publications in English language. The following search terms were used:

(“physiotherapist”[TIAB] or “physical therapist”[TIAB] or
“physiotherapy”[TIAB] or “physical therapy”[TIAB] or “Physical therapy
specialty”[Mesh])
AND
 (“advanced practice”[TIAB] or “first contact”[TIAB] or “entry point”[TIAB] or
“entry-point”[TIAB] or “initial contact”[TIAB] or “direct access”[TIAB] or
“primary care”[TIAB] or “extended scope”[TIAB] or “physician
extender”[TIAB])

Titles and abstracts were screened by a reviewer using Covidence (Veritas Health Innovation, Melbourne, Australia) to ensure that articles were focused on Primary Care Physical Therapy. Primary Care PT was defined as consultation or intervention by a physical therapist in one of the following models:

- PT physically located at primary care setting or integrated within the primary care visit
- PT as part of triage procedure when a patient presents with health concern
- PT as entry-point provider

The Pubmed search yielded 208 results for the year 2024, and 92 were deemed relevant to primary care physical therapy.

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1) Provide the number of these articles published each year over the previous five (5) years. Briefly describe the search process used to gather this information.

The search strategy used for calendar year 2024 above was also applied for years 2020-2023. The search was conducted on Pubmed with results restricted to English language using the following search terms:

(“physiotherapist”[TIAB] or “physical therapist”[TIAB] or
“physiotherapy”[TIAB] or “physical therapy”[TIAB] or “Physical therapy
specialty”[Mesh])

AND

(“advanced practice”[TIAB] or “first contact”[TIAB] or “entry point”[TIAB] or
“entry-point”[TIAB] or “initial contact”[TIAB] or “direct access”[TIAB] or
“primary care”[TIAB] or “extended scope”[TIAB] or “physician
extender”[TIAB])

Titles and abstracts were reviewed using the same methodology described above for articles published in 2024. The table below presents the number of articles identified in the search and the number of articles relevant to Primary Care PT based on title and abstract screening/

Year of publication	Number of articles retrieved from Pubmed search	Number of articles relevant to Primary Care Physical Therapy
2024	208	92
2023	182	81
2022	191	72
2021	182	71
2020	178	80