

# **PEDro codes**

## **Subdiscipline**

These categories refer to various aspects of physiotherapy. If the area for a particular paper does not fit under any of these, the code “no appropriate value in this field” should be used.

### *cardiothoracics*

includes, but is not restricted to, papers evaluating acute and rehabilitation cardiothoracic interventions or fitness training on those with conditions affecting the cardiothoracic system. This subdiscipline does not include studies of general fitness training among patient populations. Studies of general fitness training for healthy populations are not indexed on PEDro

### *continence and women's health*

includes, but is not restricted to, male and female incontinence and pre- and post-natal interventions for the mother

### *ergonomics and occupational health*

includes, but is not restricted to, interventions based at workplaces or on workers for work-related conditions

### *gerontology*

includes papers where the average age of the study sample is over 60, and papers on conditions which commonly affect older people (eg, arthritis)

### *musculoskeletal*

includes, but is not restricted to, low back pain, rheumatoid disease, entrapment syndromes, neuralgia

### *neurology*

includes, but is not restricted to, lesions of the central and peripheral nervous systems excluding those whose primary presentation is pain or paraesthesia such as carpal tunnel syndrome, neuralgia or sciatica

### *oncology*

includes papers evaluating interventions for health problems due to tumours or cancers

### *orthopaedics*

includes only fractures and intervention before or after orthopaedic surgery (eg, knee replacements, ligament repairs)

### *paediatrics*

includes papers where the average age of the study sample is under 16, and papers on conditions which commonly affect children (eg, cystic fibrosis)

### *sports*

includes papers which specifically mention sports injuries as well as conditions which commonly affect sports people (eg, ligament repairs)

### *no appropriate value in this field*

## **Intervention**

These categories cover broad aspects of physiotherapy intervention. If the intervention used in a particular paper does not fit under any of these, the code “no appropriate value in this field” should be used.

*acupuncture*  
*behaviour modification*  
*education*  
*electrotherapy, heat, cold*  
*fitness training*  
*health promotion*  
*hydrotherapy, balneotherapy*  
*neurodevelopmental therapy, neurofacilitation*  
*orthoses, taping, splinting*  
*respiratory therapy*  
*skill training*  
*strength training*  
*stretching, mobilisation, manipulation, massage*  
*no appropriate value in this field*

## **Problem**

This problem list has been developed to cover broad categories of problems treated by physiotherapists. Note that the problem has been described at the level of physiotherapy intervention. If the problem being treated in a particular paper does not fit under any of these, the code “no appropriate value in this field” should be used.

*difficulty with sputum clearance*  
*frailty*  
*impaired ventilation*  
*incontinence*  
*motor incoordination*  
*muscle shortening, reduced joint compliance*  
*muscle weakness*  
*oedema*  
*pain*  
*reduced exercise tolerance*  
*reduced work tolerance*  
*skin lesion, wound, burn*  
*no appropriate value in this field*

## **Body part**

These categories refer to the body part being treated. If there is no one body part being treated, or if the intervention is targeted at whole body systems rather than a body part (eg, training walking following a stroke), the code “no appropriate value in this field” should be used.

*head or neck*  
*upper arm, shoulder or shoulder girdle*  
*forearm or elbow*  
*hand or wrist*  
*chest (for cardiothoracic trials)*  
*thoracic spine*  
*lumbar spine, SIJ or pelvis*  
*perineum or genito-urinary system*  
*thigh or hip*  
*lower leg or knee*  
*foot or ankle*  
*no appropriate value in this field*

## Topic

These categories refer to specific populations treated by physiotherapists. If the topic for a particular paper does not fit under any of these, the code “no appropriate value in this field” should be used.

### *cerebral palsy*

includes papers evaluating management of cerebral palsy

### *chronic pain*

includes papers evaluating management of chronic pain including chronic pain of musculoskeletal or neurological origin

### *chronic respiratory disease*

includes papers evaluating management of chronic respiratory disease including interstitial lung disease, bronchiectasis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

### *neurotrauma*

includes papers evaluating management of spinal cord injury or traumatic brain injury

### *whiplash*

includes papers evaluating management of whiplash associated disorders

### *no appropriate value in this field*