

Physiotherapist interview checklist

Most employers run an HR screen, then a clinical interview with the senior physiotherapist or rehab head, and many add a practical where you assess or treat a volunteer or discuss a case.

10 QUESTIONS TO PRACTISE OUT LOUD

1. How do you assess a patient with low back pain on the first visit?

What it checks: Whether you follow a structured subjective and objective assessment, screen for red flags and use outcome measures from the first session.

2. Tell me about a patient who was not improving and what you changed.

What it checks: Whether you reflect, reassess and seek advice rather than continuing the same treatment by habit.

3. Are you comfortable doing home visits and travelling across the city?

What it checks: Whether you can handle home care logistics and work safely and professionally in patients' homes.

4. Which red flags make you stop treatment and refer a patient back to the doctor?

What it checks: Whether you recognise signs of serious pathology that are outside physiotherapy and act on them promptly.

5. Tell me about a time you worked with a doctor or another therapist on a patient.

What it checks: Whether you communicate clearly with the multidisciplinary team and contribute your own professional findings and view to a shared plan.

6. Why do you want to work at our rehab centre?

What it checks: Whether you have researched the centre's specialties and can connect them to your learning goals.

7. How do you plan rehabilitation after an ACL reconstruction?

What it checks: Whether you follow the surgeon's protocol, progress by criteria rather than only by time, and understand return-to-sport testing.

8. Tell me about a patient who was hard to motivate.

What it checks: Whether you can understand the reason behind low motivation and adapt your approach instead of blaming the patient.

9. What salary do you expect, and when can you join?

What it checks: Whether you know realistic pay for your level and setting, and can state it clearly with a practical joining date.

10. How do you mobilise a patient safely in the ICU?

What it checks: Whether you check medical stability, lines and sedation, coordinate with the ICU team and stop when the patient does not tolerate it.

TIPS FOR THIS INTERVIEW

- Practise a full assessment for common conditions like low back pain, knee arthritis and frozen shoulder on a friend, in the exact order you would do it in a practical round.

- Revise red flags and contraindications for exercise and electrotherapy, because panels often ask when you would stop treatment or refer.
- Prepare two or three patient stories with before-and-after outcome measures, so your answers show results rather than general statements.
- Know the setting you are applying to: hospital ICU work, sports rehab and home care each have different questions and expectations.

THE DAY BEFORE

- ☐ Confirm the time, venue or video link and the interviewer's name
- ☐ Plan your route and leave time for traffic, or test your camera, microphone and internet
- ☐ Keep copies of your resume, ID proof, certificates and photographs in a folder
- ☐ Iron your clothes and charge your phone and laptop
- ☐ Do one final run-through of your introduction, then stop and rest

ON THE DAY

- ☐ Arrive 15 minutes early, or log in 5–10 minutes early for a video call
- ☐ Greet everyone politely, including the receptionist or coordinator
- ☐ Listen to the full question, pause, then answer in a clear structure
- ☐ Take brief notes of names and key points
- ☐ Ask your prepared questions and confirm the next steps before you leave