

Physical Activity Readiness Questionnaire (PAR-Q)

Regular physical activity is fun and healthy, and increasing numbers of people are starting to become more active every day. Fortunately, being more active is very safe for most people. However, some people should check with their doctor before they start becoming much more physically active.

If you are planning to become much more physically active than you are now, start by answering the questions listed below. If you are between the ages of 15 and 69, this PAR-Q will tell you if you should check with your doctor before you start. Common sense is your best guide when you answer these questions. Please read the questions carefully and answer each one honestly.

Circle *yes* or *no*.

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| yes | no | 1. Has your doctor ever said that you have a heart condition and that you should do only physical activity recommended by a doctor? |
| yes | no | 2. Do you feel pain in your chest or sensations of pressure in your chest during any type of physical activity? |
| yes | no | 3. In the past month, have you had chest pain when you were not doing physical activity? |
| yes | no | 4. Does your heart beat irregularly or seem to skip beats? |
| yes | no | 5. Do you lose your balance because of dizziness, or do you ever lose consciousness? |
| yes | no | 6. Do you have a respiratory problem such as asthma? |
| yes | no | 7. Do you have any diagnosed form of diabetes? |
| yes | no | 8. Do you have a bone or joint problem that could be made worse by a change in your physical activity? |
| yes | no | 9. Is your doctor currently prescribing drugs (for example, water pills) for your blood pressure or heart condition? |
| yes | no | 10. Do you know of any other reason why you should not do physical activity? |

If you answered *yes* to one or more questions:

Talk with your doctor by phone or in person before you start becoming more physically active or before you have a fitness appraisal. Tell your doctor about the PAR-Q and which questions you answered yes to. With your doctor's consent:

- You may be able to do any activity you want—as long as you start slowly and build up gradually. Or, you may need to restrict your activities to those that are safe for you. Talk with your doctor about the kinds of activities you wish to participate in and follow his or her advice.
- Find out which community programs are safe and helpful for you.

If you answered *no* to one or more questions:

If you answered *no* honestly to all PAR-Q questions, you can be reasonably sure that you can do any of the following:

- Start becoming much more physically active; begin slowly and build up gradually. This is the safest and easiest way to go.
- Take part in a fitness appraisal—this is an excellent way to determine your basic fitness so you can plan the best way for you to live actively.
- Delay becoming much more active if you are not feeling well because of a temporary illness such as a cold or a fever—wait until you feel better. Also, delay if you are or may be pregnant—talk to your doctor before you start becoming more active.

Note: If your health changes so that you then answer yes to any of the above questions, tell your fitness or health professional. Ask whether you should change your physical activity plan.

*Adapted from PAR-Q & You, Canadian Society of Exercise Physiology, Health Canada, 1994.