Appendix

Postural Assessment Charts

You can use these postural assessment charts to track your findings and comments as you're completing postural assessments. Feel free to make photocopies of these charts for inclusion in your clients' records. The order of the steps in each of these charts matches the order of the steps in chapters 3, 4, 5 and 6. Consult those chapters for more detailed information on completing an assessment at each step.

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POSTERIOR POSTURAL ASSESSMENT CHART

UPPER BODY			
Left side	eft side Right side		
	Step 1 Ear Level		
	Step 2 Head and Neck Ti	lt	
	Step 3 Cervical Rotation		
	Step 4 Cervical Spine Alignment		
	Step 5 Shoulder Height		
	Step 6 Muscle Bulk and Tone		
	Step 7 Scapular Adduction and Abduction		
	Step 8 Inferior Angle of the Scapula		
	Step 9 Rotation of the Scapula		
	Step 10 Winging of the Scapula		

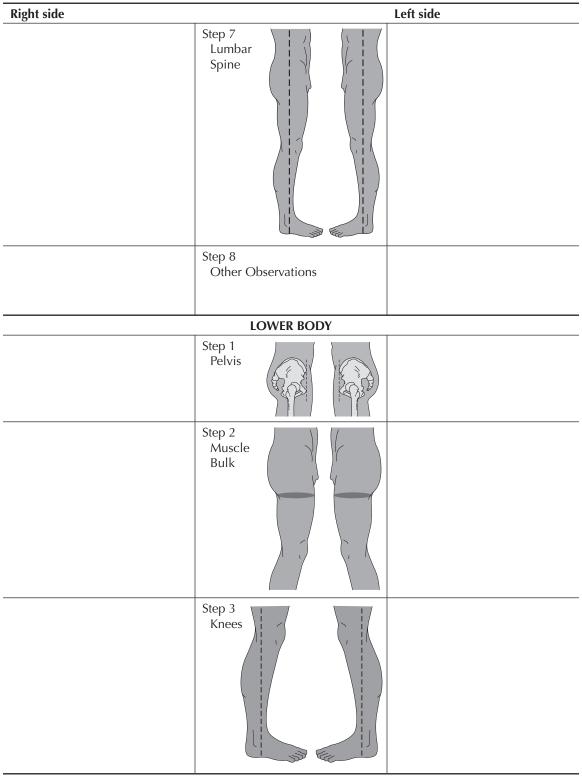
Left side			Right side
	Step 11 Thoracic Spine	j'l'y	
	Step 12 Thoracic Cage	FL	
	Step 13 Skin Creases	riy	
	Step 14 Upper Limb Position		
	Step 15 Elbow Position		
	Step 16 Hand Position		
	Step 17 Other Observatio	ons	
	LOWER E	BODY	
	Step 1 Lumbar Spine		
	Step 2 Pelvic Rim		
	Step 3 PSIS		

LOWER BODY			
Left side	Right side		
	Step 4 Pelvic Rotation		
	Step 5 Buttock Crease		
	Step 6 Thigh Bulk		
	Step 7 Genu Varum and Genu Valgum		
	Step 8 Posterior Knees		
	Step 9 Calf Bulk		

Left side			Right side
	Step 10 Calf Midline		
	Step 11 Achilles Tendon	Normal	
	Step 12 Malleoli		
	Step 13 Foot Position		
	Step 14 Other Observatio	ons	

LATERAL POSTURAL ASSESSMENT CHART

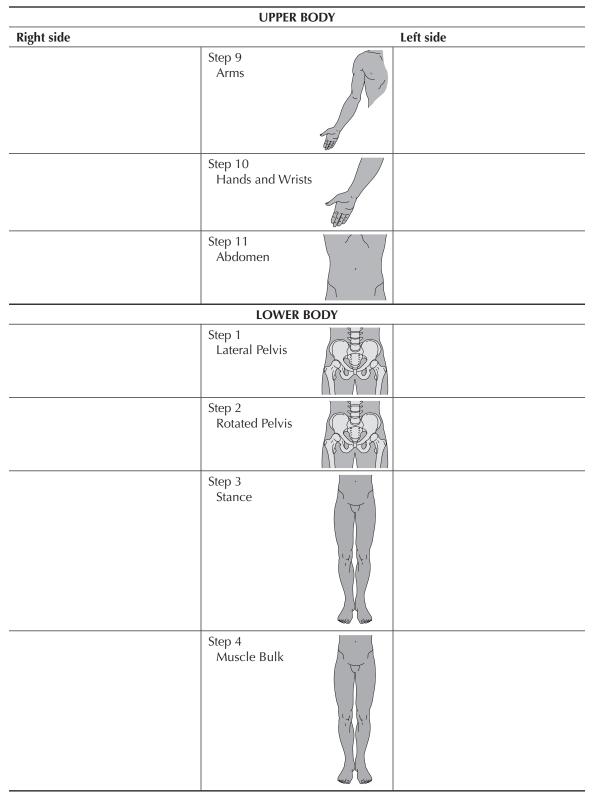
UPPER BODY			
Right side		Left side	
	Step 1 Head Position		
	Step 2 Cervical Spine		
	Step 3 Cervico- thoracic Junction		
	Step 4 Shoulder Position		
	Step 5 Thorax		
	Step 6 Abdomen		

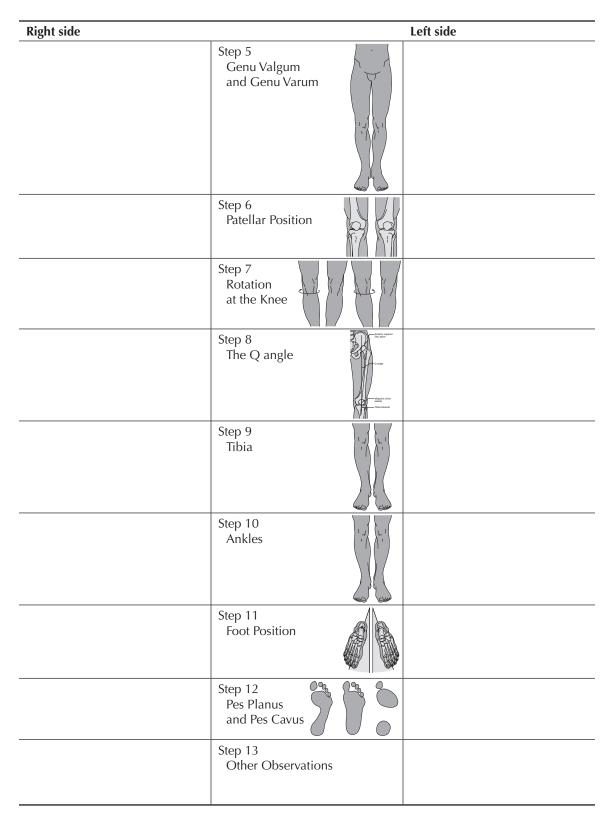


LOWER BODY		
Right side		Left side
	Step 4 Ankles	
	Step 5 Feet	
	Step 6 Other Observations	

ANTERIOR POSTURAL ASSESSMENT CHART

UPPER BODY		
Right side		Left side
	Step 1 Face	~
	Step 2 Head Position	
	Step 3 Muscle Tone	
	Step 4 Clavicles	
	Step 5 Shoulder Level	
	Step 6 Rounded Shoulders	
	Step 7 Chest	<u>A</u>
	Step 8 Carrying Angle	





SEATED POSTURAL ASSESSMENT CHART

POSTERIOR VIEW			
Left side	Right side		
	Step 1 Head and Neck Position		
	Step 2 Shoulder Height		
	Step 3 Thorax		
	Step 4 Hip and Thigh Position		
	Step 5 Foot Position		
	LATERAL VIEW		
	Step 1 Head and Neck Position		
	Step 2 Thorax		

Left side		Right side
	Step 3 Shoulder Position	
	Step 4 Lumbar Spine, Pelvis and Hips	
	Step 5 Knees	

Answers to Quick Questions

Chapter 1

- 1. Factors that affect posture are structural or anatomical, age, physiological, pathological, occupation, hobbies and recreation, environmental, social and cultural, and mood and emotion.
- 2. Reasons for performing a postural assessment are to get more information, to save time, to establish a baseline, and to treat holistically.
- 3. A postural assessment might not be appropriate when treating an anxious client; a client unable to stand because of pain, illness, or instability; a client who does not understand the purpose of the assessment or who does not give consent to having one performed; or a client who would benefit from a different form of assessment, more appropriate to his condition (e.g., Parkinson's disease or following a stroke).
- 4. In most cases, it is important to take a medical history before carrying out a postural assessment because information may be revealed that affects whether the assessment is appropriate and safe.
- 5. When analysing various parts of the body and how they fit together, it important to always take an overall view of the client because all parts are interrelated. Patients dislike being referred to as 'the knee' or 'the shoulder'.

Chapter 2

- 1. Useful equipment to have when carrying out a postural assessment includes a warm, private room; a full-length mirror; body crayons (and cleansing wipes); postural assessment charts; and a model skeleton.
- 2. Bony landmarks that are useful to identify before starting a posterior postural assessment include the medial border of the scapula, the inferior angle of the scapula, the spinous processes of the spine, the olecranon process of the elbow, the posterior superior iliac spine (PSIS), knee creases, the midline of the calf, and the midline of the Achilles tendon.
- 3. Any of the questions included in table 2.1 are suitable starting points for postural assessment.
- 4. A neutral pelvis is one in which the left and right iliac crests, left and right PSIS, and left and right ischia are level when the client is viewed posteriorly, and in which the ASIS and publis are in the same vertical plane when the client is viewed laterally.
- 5. Possible contraindications to postural assessment include an inability to stand or sit because of pain, blood pressure issues, and poor balance. Check for allergies if using body crayons to mark bony landmarks.

Chapter 3

- 1. The right sternocleidomastoid, levator scapulae, scalenes and upper fibers of the trapezius all laterally flex the neck to the right.
- 2. Atrophy of shoulder muscles may result from immobility of the upper limb and conditions such as adhesive capsulitis (frozen shoulder).
- 3. *Winging* is a term often used to describe the way the inferior angle (and often the medial border) of the scapula tilts away from the rib cage, becoming prominent. True winging involves damage to serratus anterior or the long thoracic nerve.
- 4. Lateral flexion to the left and a left elevated pelvis suggests a shortened left quadratus lumborum muscle.
- 5. The midline of the calf might appear more lateral on one leg if the hip of that side is internally rotated or if the tibia on that side is rotated inwards with respect to the femur—or if both conditions exist.

Chapter 4

- 1. A forward head posture might increase the strain placed on the muscles of the posterior neck such as the levator scapulae, resulting in pain in the neck, shoulders and upper back.
- 2. Muscles that become shortened when the humerus is internally rotated include the subscapularis, teres major and pectoralis major.
- 3. Retaining static postures such as sitting at a desk or driving for long periods contribute to an increased kyphosis in the thorax.
- 4. When the pelvis tilts anteriorly, there is an increase in the lordotic curve of the lumbar spine.
- 5. A client who stands with flexed knees is likely to have shortened hamstrings.

Chapter 5

- 1. A steep incline in the angle of the clavicle indicates elevated shoulders and tension in the muscles associated with shoulder elevation.
- 2. The normal carrying angle of the elbow is 5 to 10 degrees in males and 10 to 15 degrees in females.
- 3. The common name for genu valgum is knock kneed; the common name for genu varum is bow legged.
- 4. There should be slight lateral tibial torsion in standing.
- 5. Endomorphs are commonly described as stocky or big boned; ectomorphs are described as skinny or gangly; and mesomorphs are described as athletic or muscular.

Chapter 6

- 1. When a client has a workstation positioned to the right, the muscles of the neck that might be shortened or have increased tone are the left sternocleidomastoid, right levator scapulae and right scalenes.
- 2. Some people passively shorten the muscles that elevate the shoulder by resting that arm on the windowsill of a vehicle or on the arm of a chair.
- 3. Crossing one leg over the other overcomes the anterior tilting of the pelvis and the increase in lumbar lordosis associated with this posture.
- 4. Hip flexor muscles are always shortened in the seated position.
- 5. Assuming that a client sits on a regular chair (and not with the legs outstretched, knees in extension), the soft tissues of the posterior knee, including the popliteus muscle, maintain a shortened position.

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<u>About the Author</u>



Jane Johnson, MSc, is co-director of the London Massage Company, England. As a chartered physiotherapist and sport massage therapist, she has been carrying out postural assessments for many years.

Johnson teaches postural assessment as a provider of continuing professional development (CPD) workshops for the Federation of Holistic Therapists (FHT). This experience has brought her into contact with thousands of therapists of all disciplines and helped inform her own practice. She is also a regular presenter at the annual Complementary and Massage Expo (CAM) held in the United Kingdom.

Johnson is a full member of the Chartered Society of

Physiotherapists and is registered with the Health Professions Council. A member of the Institute of Anatomical Sciences, she has a deep interest in musculoskeletal anatomy and how newly qualified therapists can be better educated in this subject. She also is interested in the relationship between emotions and posture.

In her spare time, Johnson enjoys taking her dog for long walks, practicing wing chun kung fu, and visiting museums. She resides in London.



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