

# the MAC-Q

## are you REALLY ready to sweat?

Regular physical activity is fun and healthy, and increasing numbers of people are becoming more active every day. Being more active is very safe for most people, however, some people should check with their doctor before becoming much more physically active.

If you plan to become more physically active than you are now, start by answering the seven questions in the box below. If you are between the ages of 15 and 69, the MAC-Q will tell you if you should check with your doctor before you start. If you are over 69 years of age, and you are not very active, check with your doctor.

Common sense is your best guide when you answer these questions. Please read the questions carefully and answer each one honestly: check YES or NO.

YES	NO	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Has your doctor ever said that you have a heart condition and you should only do physical activity recommended by a doctor?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Do you feel pain in your chest when doing physical activity?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. In the past month, have you had chest pain when you were not doing physical activity?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Do you lose your balance because of dizziness or do you ever lose consciousness?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Do you have a bone or joint problem (for example, back, knee or hip) that could be made worse by a change in your physical activity?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Is your doctor currently prescribing medications (ie: water pills) for a blood pressure or heart condition?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. 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 become much more physically active or BEFORE you have a fitness appraisal. Tell your doctor about the MAC-Q and which questions you answered YES.

- ◆ 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 which are safe for you. Talk with your doctor about the activities you wish to participate in and follow his/her advice.

### NO to all questions

If you answered NO honestly to all MAC-Q questions, you can be reasonably sure that you can:

- ◆ Become 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 that you can plan the best way for you to live actively. It is also highly recommended that you have your blood pressure evaluated. If your reading is over 144/94, talk with your doctor before becoming much more physically active.



### 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 are feeling better.
- ◆ If you are or may be pregnant—talk to your doctor before you become more active.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If your health changes so that you can answer YES to any of the above questions, tell your fitness or health professional. Ask whether you should change your physical activity plan.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_