



South Dakota Board of Physical Therapy

Mailing Address:
810 North Main Street, Suite 298
Spearfish, SD 57783

Phone: (605) 642-1600
E-Mail: office@sdlicensing.com

Draft-Video Conference **BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

TO: All Board Members

FROM: Brooke Tellinghuisen Geddes

DATE: August 10, 2023

MEETING DATE: August 23, 2023

LOCATION: Video Conference

The public is invited to attend the meeting via Microsoft Teams at the following link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NDI2ZGM5MmItZTdmNy00YTliLTljMWMtNTlhZWZyZlI3NGVk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e69efb98-56ef-4797-a76b-e1ec658a639c%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22ee0a24e7-6d2c-4495-ade5-4377098865d2%22%7d

If members of the public would like to be sent the Microsoft Teams invitation to the meeting instead of using the above link, please contact the Board office prior to the meeting at office@sdlicensing.com.

MEETING TIME: 11:00AM MDT / 12:00PM CDT

Agenda Item Number

1. Call to Order/Welcome
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Public Comment at 12:05PM CDT
5. Approval of the Minutes from July 28, 2023

6. Application Update
7. Discussion/Vote on Revised ARSD 20:66
8. Schedule Next Meeting(s)
9. Any other Business
10. Executive Session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2
11. Adjourn

DRAFT

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OFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES FOR July 28, 2023

In-Person

Red Rossa-Hills Room

808 W. Sioux Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501

MEMBERS PRESENT: Patti Berg-Poppe, President
Leonard Suel, Vice-President
Rebecca Schmitz, Secretary
Brad Thuringer, Member
Janelle Toman, Lay Member
Linda Ahrendt, Lay Member

MEMBERS ABSENT: Matthew Weigel, Member

OTHERS PRESENT: Brooke Tellinghuisen Geddes, Executive Director
Carol Tellinghuisen, Executive Assistant
Lynne Valenti, Deputy Secretary, SD Dept. of Health
Howard Pallotta, Legal Counsel, SD Dept. of Health
Mariah Pokorny, Director of Accreditation and Reporting, SD Dept. of Health
Susan Sporrer, SD Dept. of Health

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Tellinghuisen Geddes called the meeting to order at 10:14 AM CDT.

ROLL CALL: Tellinghuisen Geddes called the roll. Berg-Poppe, yes; Suel, yes; Schmitz, yes; Thuringer, yes; Toman, yes; Ahrendt, yes; Weigel, absent. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Toman made a motion to approve the agenda. Thuringer seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED** by unanimous voice vote.

INTRODUCTIONS: Board members present, board staff and Department of Health attendees introduced themselves.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Thuringer made a motion to elect Berg-Poppe as President. Suel seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED** by unanimous voice vote.

Schmitz made a motion to elect Suel as Vice-President. Thuringer seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED** by unanimous voice vote.

Thuringer made a motion to elect Schmitz as Secretary. Berg-Poppe seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED** by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM JULY 10, 2023: Toman made a motion to approve the minutes for July 10, 2023 with one correction to the name of Professional Licensing from Profession Licensing. Ahrendt seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED** by unanimous voice vote.

BOARD ORIENTATION: Pallotta, Pokorny and Sporrer presented a Board Member Training PowerPoint which reviewed the following topics: board composition, board powers, board functions, board member responsibilities, executive secretary responsibilities, meeting requirements, open meeting laws, code of conduct, and statutes and rules processes.

OLD BUSINESS/STATUS OF LICENSURE DATABASE: Tellinghuisen Geddes advised that the board does have a functional database but is waiting for further information from BMOE to import historical data. Certificates should be ready by next week. She further stated that the Board office worked closely with legal counsel to develop a paper application process for initial applications but that renewals will be able to be completed online.

OLD BUSINESS/UPDATE ON ORI & BACKGROUND CHECKS: Tellinghuisen Geddes advised that an ORI number has not been assigned to the Board, and that it could be some time before they are assigned one. In the meantime, the Board has a process for completing the required background checks which includes a two-step process for the DCI and FBI portions. She further stated that all applicants with the BMOE that were not issued a license are required to re-complete the criminal background check process as the BMOE doesn't believe they have authority to release that information and SDCL 36-10-27.1 does not give the Board of Physical Therapy the authority to issue a license without receiving the information. All applicants that were passed over from the BMOE to Board of Physical Therapy have been sent background packets and instructions to complete the requirement.

NEW BUSINESS/REVIEW OF FINANCES: Pokorny reported the cash balance of the Board of \$1,158,648.00. More detailed financials will be available at a future meeting as BFM reports become available.

NEW BUSINESS/DEVELOP A MISSION STATEMENT: The board discussed potential mission statements and chose the mission statement to be "To protect the health and safety of the public by licensure of qualified Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants and enforcement of the statutes, rules and regulations governing the practice of Physical Therapy, including the appropriate processing and resolution of complaints." Toman made a motion to approve the mission statement as stated. Schmitz seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED** by unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS/REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES: Sporrer presented potential updates to ARSD 20:66. Discussion was held on annual versus biennial renewals, continuing education requirements and the Code-of-Ethics. Updates will be made and presented for a final vote of the Board at their next meeting on August 23, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS/SELECT PHYSICAL THERAPY COMPACT COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE: The Board discussed the selection of a compact commission representative to attend the virtual annual meeting of the PTCC and vote on topics such as candidates for office, budgets and amendments to rules. Suel moved to elect Thuringer as the Compact Commission Representative. Berg-Poppe seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED** by unanimous voice vote.

The Board also discussed sending delegates to the FSBPT Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, FL on October 19-21st, 2023. FSBPT will fund an administrator, delegate and alternative delegate. Suel and Berg-Poppe expressed interest in attending. Tellinghuisen-Geddes stated she will check her schedule to see if it will allow her to travel to the meeting as well. The Board office will be in contact with members interested in attending.

SCHEDULE FUTURE MEETING DATES: The next meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, August 23rd at 11:00AM MDT/ 12:00 PM CDT via Microsoft Teams and Tuesday, October 24th at 11:00AM MDT/ 12:00 PM via Microsoft Teams. The October meeting is tentatively planned to also serve as a public rule hearing for proposed rules changes.

Toman made a motion to adjourn at 1:50 PM CDT. Thuringer seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED** by unanimous voice vote.



Respectfully submitted,
Brooke Tellinghuisen Geddes
Executive Director

1-27-1.17. Draft minutes of public meeting to be available--Exceptions--Violation as misdemeanor. The unapproved, draft minutes of any public meeting held pursuant to § 1-25-1 that are required to be kept by law shall be available for inspection by any person within ten business days after the meeting. However, this section does not apply if an audio or video recording of the meeting is available to the public on the governing body's website within five business days after the meeting. A violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor. However, the provisions of this section do not apply to draft minutes of contested case proceedings held in accordance with the provisions of chapter 1-26.

ARTICLE 20:66

PHYSICAL THERAPISTS AND PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS

Chapter

20:66:01	Fees.
20:66:02	Ethics.
20:66:03	Continuing education.
20:66:04	Dry needling.

~~— **Declaratory Ruling:** Declaratory Ruling of the Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners dated September 21, 1994, was vacated by the Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners by order of the board dated March 30, 2015.~~

CHAPTER 20:66:01

FEES

Section

20:66:01:01	Fee amounts.
20:66:01:02	Repealed.
20:66:01:03	Repealed.
20:66:01:04	Repealed.

20:66:01:01. Fee amounts. The fees for the physical therapists and physical therapist assistants are as follows:

- (1) Application for the initial license, ~~\$60~~ one hundred twenty dollars;
- (2) ~~Annual~~ Biennial renewal of the license, ~~\$60~~ one hundred twenty dollars;

(3) Reinstatement of a forfeited license, ~~\$50~~ fifty dollars.

Source: 15 SDR 40, effective September 13, 1988; 22 SDR 61, effective November 5, 1995; 34 SDR 93, effective October 17, 2007.

General Authority: SDCL 36-10-27, 36-10-32, 36-10-33, 36-10-35.1, 36-10-35.2, 36-10-36,

Law Implemented: SDCL ~~36-10-28~~ 36-10-27, 36-10-32, 36-10-33, 36-10-35.1, 36-10-35.2, 36-10-47.

CHAPTER 20:66:02

ETHICS

Section

20:66:02:01 Code of ethics for physical therapists.

20:66:02:01.01 Code of ethics for physical therapist assistants.

20:66:02:02 Violations.

20:66:02:03 Ethical considerations.

20:66:02:01. Code of ethics for physical therapists. ~~A licensee under physical therapist licensed in accordance with~~ SDCL chapter 36-10 shall comply with the following ~~code of ethics.~~

~~— Principle #1: Physical therapists shall respect the inherent dignity and rights of all individuals.~~

~~1A. Physical therapists shall act in a respectful manner toward each person regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, religion, ethnicity, social or economic status, sexual orientation, health condition, or disability.~~

~~1B. Physical therapists shall recognize their personal biases and shall not discriminate against others in physical therapist practice, consultation, education, research, and administration.~~

~~Principle #2: Physical therapists shall be trustworthy and compassionate in addressing the rights and needs of patients/clients.~~

~~2A. Physical therapists shall adhere to the core values of the profession and shall act in the best interests of patients/clients over the interests of the physical therapist.~~

~~2B. Physical therapists shall provide physical therapy services with compassionate and caring behaviors that incorporate the individual and cultural differences of patients/clients.~~

~~2C. Physical therapists shall provide the information necessary to allow patients or their surrogates to make informed decisions about physical therapy care or participation in clinical research.~~

~~2D. Physical therapists shall collaborate with patients/clients to empower them in decisions about their health care.~~

~~2E. Physical therapists shall protect confidential patient/client information and may disclose confidential information to appropriate authorities only when allowed or as required by law.~~

~~Principal #3: Physical therapists shall be accountable for making sound professional judgments.~~

~~3A. Physical therapists shall demonstrate independent and objective professional judgment in the patient's/client's best interest in all practice settings.~~

~~3B. Physical therapists shall demonstrate professional judgment informed by professional standards, evidence (including current literature and established best practice), practitioner experience, and patient/client values.~~

~~3C. Physical therapists shall make judgments within their scope of practice and level of expertise and shall communicate with, collaborate with, or refer to peers or other health care professionals when necessary.~~

~~3D. Physical therapists shall not engage in conflicts of interest that interfere with professional judgment.~~

~~3E. Physical therapists shall provide appropriate direction of and communication with physical therapist assistants and support personnel.~~

~~— Principal #4: Physical therapists shall demonstrate integrity in their relationships with patients/clients, families, colleagues, students, research participants, other health care providers, employers, payers, and the public.~~

~~4A. Physical therapists shall provide truthful, accurate, and relevant information and shall not make misleading representations.~~

~~4B. Physical therapists shall not exploit persons over whom they have supervisory, evaluative or other authority (e.g., patients/clients, students, supervisees, research participants, or employees).~~

~~4C. Physical therapists shall discourage misconduct by health care professionals and report illegal or unethical acts to the relevant authority, when appropriate.~~

~~4D. Physical therapists shall report suspected cases of abuse involving children or vulnerable adults to the appropriate authority, subject to law.~~

~~4E. Physical therapists shall not engage in any sexual relationship with any of their patients/clients, supervisees, or students.~~

~~4F. Physical therapists shall not harass anyone verbally, physical, emotionally, or sexually.~~

~~— Principle #5: Physical therapists shall fulfill their legal and professional obligations.~~

~~5A. Physical therapists shall comply with applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations.~~

~~5B. Physical therapists shall have primary responsibility for supervision of physical therapist assistants and support personnel.~~

~~5C. Physical therapists involved in research shall abide by accepted standards governing protection of research participants.~~

~~5D. Physical therapists shall encourage colleagues with physical, psychological, or substance-related impairments that may adversely impact their professional responsibilities to seek assistance or counsel.~~

~~5E. Physical therapists who have knowledge that a colleague is unable to perform their professional responsibilities with reasonable skill and safety shall report this information to the appropriate authority.~~

~~5F. Physical therapists shall provide notice and information about alternatives for obtaining care in the event the physical therapist terminates the provider relationship while the patient/client continues to need physical therapy services.~~

~~Principal #6. Physical therapists shall enhance their expertise through the lifelong acquisition and refinement of knowledge, skills, abilities, and professional behaviors.~~

~~6A. Physical therapists shall achieve and maintain professional competence.~~

~~6B. Physical therapists shall take responsibility for their professional development based on critical self-assessment and reflection on changes in physical therapist practice, education, health care delivery, and technology.~~

~~6C. Physical therapists shall evaluate the strength of evidence and applicability of content presented during professional development activities before integrating the content or techniques into practice.~~

~~6D. Physical therapists shall cultivate practice environments that support professional development, lifelong learning, and excellence.~~

~~Principal #7. Physical therapists shall promote organizational behaviors and business practices that benefit patients/clients and society.~~

~~7A. Physical therapists shall promote practice environments that support autonomous and accountable professional judgments.~~

~~7B. Physical therapists shall seek remuneration as is deserved and reasonable for physical therapist services.~~

~~7C. Physical therapists shall not accept gifts or other considerations that influence or give an appearance of influencing their professional judgment.~~

~~7D. Physical therapists shall fully disclose any financial interest they have in products or services that they recommend to patients/clients.~~

~~7E. Physical therapists shall be aware of charges and shall ensure that documentation and coding for physical therapy services accurately reflect the nature and extent of the services provided.~~

~~7F. Physical therapists shall refrain from employment arrangements, or other arrangements, that prevent physical therapists from fulfilling professional obligations to patients/clients.~~

~~Principle #8: Physical therapists shall participate in efforts to meet the health needs of people locally, nationally, or globally.~~

~~8A. Physical therapists shall provide pro bono physical therapy services or support organizations that meet the health needs of people who are economically disadvantaged, uninsured, and underinsured.~~

~~8B. Physical therapists shall advocate reducing health disparities and health care inequities, improve access to health care services, and address the health, wellness, and preventive health care needs of people.~~

~~8C. Physical therapists shall be responsible stewards of health care resources and shall avoid overutilization or underutilization of physical therapy services.~~

~~8D. Physical therapists shall educate members of the public about the benefits of physical therapy and the unique role of the physical therapist ethical standards as set for in the American Physical Therapy Association, Code of Ethics for the Physical Therapist, 2020.~~

Source: 41 SDR 180, effective May 21, 2015.

General Authority: SDCL 36-10-36.

Law Implemented: SDCL 36-10-39, 36-10-40.

Reference: ~~Code of Ethics of the American Physical Therapy Association, Code of Ethics for the Physical Therapist, 2010~~ 2020. Copies may be obtained from http://www.apta.org/uploadedFiles/APTAorg/About_Us/Policies/Ethics/CodeofEthics.pdf at no cost at <https://www.apta.org/your-practice/ethics-and-professionalism>.

20:66:02:01.01. Standards of ethical conduct for physical therapist assistants. A physical therapist assistant licensed in accordance with SDCL chapter 36-10 shall comply with the ethical standards as set for in the American Physical Therapy Association, Standard of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant, 2020.

Source:

General Authority: SDCL 36-10-36.

Law Implemented: SDCL 36-10-39, 36-10-40.

Reference: American Physical Therapy Association, Standard of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapy Assistant, 2020. Copies may be obtained at no cost at <https://www.apta.org/your-practice/ethics-and-professionalism>.

20:66:02:03. Ethical considerations. The ~~board~~ Board of Physical Therapy may utilize the annotations and opinions included in the Code of Ethics of the American Physical Therapy Association as guidance in determining whether a licensee has violated professional ethical standards and conduct.

Source: 41 SDR 180, effective May 21, 2015.

General Authority: SDCL 36-10-36.

Law Implemented: SDCL 36-10-39, 36-10-40.

CHAPTER 20:66:03
CONTINUING EDUCATION

Section

- 20:66:03:01 Continuing education hours—~~15 hours~~.
- 20:66:03:02 Activities for continuing education requirements.
- 20:66:03:03 Reporting continuing education.
- 20:66:03:04 Waiver of continuing education requirements.

20:66:03:01. Continuing education hours—~~15 hours~~. ~~An applicant to renew a license~~
Effective January 1, 2024, a licensee shall complete ~~15~~ thirty continuing education hours in a ~~one-~~
year ~~two-year~~ period in professional education activities updating competency in physical therapy.

Source: 44 SDR 168, effective May 7, 2018.

General Authority: SDCL 36-10-36.

Law Implemented: SDCL ~~36-10-35.2~~ 36-10-33, 36-10-36, 36-10-51.

20:66:03:02. Activities for continuing education requirements. Activities that qualify for credit toward completion of the continuing education requirement include programs sponsored or approved by the American Physical Therapy Association or other national or state physical therapy association, activities conducted by a hospital or related institution, programs approved by the Board of Physical Therapy, and programs sponsored by a college or university. The educational activities must have significant intellectual or practical content dealing primarily with matters directly related to the practice of physical therapy or to the professional responsibility or ethical obligations of the participants.

Source: 44 SDR 95, effective December 7, 2017.

General Authority: SDCL 36-10-36.

Law Implemented: SDCL 36-10-33, 36-10-35.2, 36-10-51.

20:66:03:03. Reporting continuing education. To demonstrate compliance with the continuing education requirements, each physical therapist and physical therapist assistant shall sign a statement to confirm completion of the required continuing education hours ~~each year~~ on the renewal application, and shall present proof of completion if requested by the ~~board~~ Board of Physical Therapy.

Source: 44 SDR 95, effective December 7, 2017.

General Authority: SDCL 36-10-36.

Law Implemented: SDCL 36-10-33, 36-10-35.2, 36-10-51.

20:66:03:04. Waiver of continuing education requirements. The ~~board~~ Board of Physical Therapy may excuse an applicant from the ~~annual~~ continuing education requirements if the applicant submits an affidavit to the board stating that the applicant was prevented from completing the requirements because of ~~illness or an~~ undue hardship. An application for an undue hardship shall be submitted to the Board of Physical Therapy at least thirty days prior to the two-year educational period referenced in § 20:66:03:01 or the waiver may be denied.

Source: 44 SDR 95, effective December 7, 2017.

General Authority: SDCL 36-10-36.

Law Implemented: SDCL ~~36-10-33, 36-10-35.2~~ 36-10-51.

CHAPTER 20:66:04

DRY NEEDLING

Section

- 20:66:04:01 Definitions.
- 20:66:04:02 Dry needling course of study.
- 20:66:04:03 Proof of course completion.
- 20:66:04:04 Dry needling delegation.

20:66:04:01. Definitions. Words defined in SDCL chapter 36-10 have the same meaning when used in this article. In addition, words used in this article mean:

(1) "Dry needling," a skilled technique performed by a licensed physical therapist who has completed an approved course of training using filiform needles to penetrate the skin and underlying tissues to affect change in body structures and physical function capability for the evaluation and management of neuromusculoskeletal conditions, pain, movement impairments, and disability.

Source: 45 SDR 9, effective August 1, 2018.

General Authority: SDCL 36-10-36, 36-10-52.

Law Implemented: SDCL 36-10-18, 36-10-52.

20:66:04:02. Dry needling course of study. The ~~board~~ Board of Physical Therapy may approve a course of study in dry needling that meets the following criteria:

(1) The course of study shall include:

(a) Surface anatomy as it relates to underlying tissues, organs, and other structures, including variations in form, proportion, and anatomical landmarks;

(b) Both emergency preparedness and response procedures related to secondary physiological effects or complications with dry needling;

(c) Both emergency preparedness and response procedures related to secondary emotional effects or complications associated with dry needling;

- (d) Standards for dry needle handling;
 - (e) Factors influencing safety and injury prevention;
 - (f) Personal protection procedures and techniques as related to dry needling;
 - (g) Theoretical basis for dry needling;
 - (h) Theoretical basis for combining dry needling with other interventions;
 - (i) Secondary effects or complications associated with dry needling on other systems;
 - (g) Theoretical basis of pain sciences, including anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, and relation to body structures and function;
 - (k) Indications, contraindications, and precautions related to dry needling;
 - (l) Palpation techniques as related to dry needling;
 - (m) Needle insertion techniques;
 - (n) Needle manipulation techniques;
 - (o) Physiological responses to dry needling; and
 - (p) Solid filament needles;
- (2) The majority of the course of study shall be in-person. Courses held entirely online or by other distance learning will not satisfy this requirement; and
- (3) The physical therapist may only perform dry needling on the parts of the body included in the course of study.

Source: 45 SDR 9, effective August 1, 2018.

General Authority: SDCL 36-10-52.

Law Implemented: SDCL 36-10-52.

20:66:04:03. Proof of course completion. Prior to performing dry needling, the physical therapist shall, on a form approved by the ~~board~~ Board of Physical Therapy, provide proof of

successful completion of a board approved course of study in dry needling evaluated through a practical, hands-on evaluation and a written examination.

Source: 45 SDR 9, effective August 1, 2018.

General Authority: SDCL 36-10-52.

Law Implemented: SDCL 36-10-52.

20:66:04:04. Dry needling delegation. Dry needling may not be delegated to a physical therapist assistant.

Source: 45 SDR 9, effective August 1, 2018.

General Authority: SDCL 36-10-36, 36-10-52.

Law Implemented: SDCL 36-10-52.

Code of Ethics for the Physical Therapist



HOD S06-20-28-25 [Amended HOD S06-19-47-67; HOD S06-09-07-12; HOD S06-00-12-23; HOD 06-91-05-05; HOD 06-87-11-17; HOD 06-81-06-18; HOD 06-78-06-08; HOD 06-78-06-07; HOD 06-77-18-30; HOD 06-77-17-27; Initial HOD 06-73-13-24] [Standard]

Preamble

The Code of Ethics for the Physical Therapist (Code of Ethics) delineates the ethical obligations of all physical therapists as determined by the House of Delegates of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA).

The purposes of this Code of Ethics are to:

1. Define the ethical principles that form the foundation of physical therapist practice in patient and client management, consultation, education, research, and administration.
2. Provide standards of behavior and performance that form the basis of professional accountability to the public.
3. Provide guidance for physical therapists facing ethical challenges, regardless of their professional roles and responsibilities.
4. Educate physical therapists, students, other health care professionals, regulators, and the public regarding the core values, ethical principles, and standards that guide the professional conduct of the physical therapist.
5. Establish the standards by which the American Physical Therapy Association can determine if a physical therapist has engaged in unethical conduct.

No code of ethics is exhaustive nor can it address every situation. Physical therapists are encouraged to seek additional advice or consultation in instances where the guidance of the Code of Ethics may not be definitive. The APTA Guide for Professional Conduct and Core Values for the Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant provide additional guidance.

This Code of Ethics describes the desired behavior of physical therapists in their multiple roles (eg, management of patients and clients, consultation, education, research, and administration), addresses multiple aspects of ethical action (individual, organizational, and societal), and reflects the core values of the physical therapist (accountability, altruism, collaboration, compassion and caring, duty, excellence, integrity, and social responsibility). Throughout the document the primary core values that support specific principles are indicated in parentheses. Unless a specific role is indicated in the principle, the duties and obligations being delineated pertain to the five roles of the physical therapist. Fundamental to the Code of Ethics is the special obligation of physical therapists to empower, educate, and enable those with impairments, activity limitations, participation restrictions, and disabilities to facilitate greater independence, health, wellness, and enhanced quality of life.

Principles

Principle #1: Physical therapists shall respect the inherent dignity and rights of all individuals.

(Core Values: Compassion and Caring, Integrity)

- 1A. Physical therapists shall act in a respectful manner toward each person regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, religion, ethnicity, social or economic status, sexual orientation, health condition, or disability.
- 1B. Physical therapists shall recognize their personal biases and shall not discriminate against others in physical therapist practice, consultation, education, research, and administration.

Principle #2: Physical therapists shall be trustworthy and compassionate in addressing the rights and needs of patients and clients.

(Core Values: Altruism, Collaboration, Compassion and Caring, Duty)

- 2A. Physical therapists shall adhere to the core values of the profession and shall act in the best interests of patients and clients over the interests of the physical therapist.

- 2B. Physical therapists shall provide physical therapist services with compassionate and caring behaviors that incorporate the individual and cultural differences of patients and clients.
- 2C. Physical therapists shall provide the information necessary to allow patients or their surrogates to make informed decisions about physical therapist care or participation in clinical research.
- 2D. Physical therapists shall collaborate with patients and clients to empower them in decisions about their health care.
- 2E. Physical therapists shall protect confidential patient and client information and may disclose confidential information to appropriate authorities only when allowed or as required by law.

Principle #3: Physical therapists shall be accountable for making sound professional judgments.

(Core Values: Collaboration, Duty, Excellence, Integrity)

- 3A. Physical therapists shall demonstrate independent and objective professional judgment in the patient's or client's best interest in all practice settings.
- 3B. Physical therapists shall demonstrate professional judgment informed by professional standards, evidence (including current literature and established best practice), practitioner experience, and patient and client values.
- 3C. Physical therapists shall make judgments within their scope of practice and level of expertise and shall communicate with, collaborate with, or refer to peers or other health care professionals when necessary.
- 3D. Physical therapists shall not engage in conflicts of interest that interfere with professional judgment.
- 3E. Physical therapists shall provide appropriate direction of and communication with physical therapist assistants and support personnel.

Principle #4: Physical therapists shall demonstrate integrity in their relationships with patients and clients, families, colleagues, students, research participants, other health care providers, employers, payers, and the public.

(Core Value: Integrity)

- 4A. Physical therapists shall provide truthful, accurate, and relevant information and shall not make misleading representations.
- 4B. Physical therapists shall not exploit persons over whom they have supervisory, evaluative or other authority (eg, patients/clients, students, supervisees, research participants, or employees).
- 4C. Physical therapists shall not engage in any sexual relationship with any of their patients and clients, supervisees, or students.
- 4D. Physical therapists shall not harass anyone verbally, physically, emotionally, or sexually.
- 4E. Physical therapists shall discourage misconduct by physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and other health care professionals and, when appropriate, report illegal or unethical acts, including verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual harassment, to an appropriate authority with jurisdiction over the conduct.
- 4F. Physical therapists shall report suspected cases of abuse involving children or vulnerable adults to the appropriate authority, subject to law.

Principle #5: Physical therapists shall fulfill their legal and professional obligations.

(Core Values: Accountability, Duty, Social Responsibility)

- 5A. Physical therapists shall comply with applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations.
- 5B. Physical therapists shall have primary responsibility for supervision of physical therapist assistants and support personnel.
- 5C. Physical therapists involved in research shall abide by accepted standards governing protection of research participants.
- 5D. Physical therapists shall encourage colleagues with physical, psychological, or substance-related impairments that may adversely impact their professional responsibilities to seek assistance or counsel.
- 5E. Physical therapists who have knowledge that a colleague is unable to perform their professional responsibilities with reasonable skill and safety shall report this information to the appropriate authority.
- 5F. Physical therapists shall provide notice and information about alternatives for obtaining care in the event the physical therapist terminates the provider relationship while the patient or client continues to need physical therapist services.

Principle #6: Physical therapists shall enhance their expertise through the lifelong acquisition and refinement of knowledge, skills, abilities, and professional behaviors.

(Core Value: Excellence)

- 6A. Physical therapists shall achieve and maintain professional competence.
- 6B. Physical therapists shall take responsibility for their professional development based on critical self-assessment and reflection on changes in physical therapist practice, education, health care delivery, and technology.
- 6C. Physical therapists shall evaluate the strength of evidence and applicability of content presented during professional development activities before integrating the content or techniques into practice.
- 6D. Physical therapists shall cultivate practice environments that support professional development, lifelong learning, and excellence.

Principle #7: Physical therapists shall promote organizational behaviors and business practices that benefit patients and clients and society.

(Core Values: Integrity, Accountability)

- 7A. Physical therapists shall promote practice environments that support autonomous and accountable professional judgments.
- 7B. Physical therapists shall seek remuneration as is deserved and reasonable for physical therapist services.
- 7C. Physical therapists shall not accept gifts or other considerations that influence or give an appearance of influencing their professional judgment.
- 7D. Physical therapists shall fully disclose any financial interest they have in products or services that they recommend to patients and clients.
- 7E. Physical therapists shall be aware of charges and shall ensure that documentation and coding for physical therapist services accurately reflect the nature and extent of the services provided.
- 7F. Physical therapists shall refrain from employment arrangements, or other arrangements, that prevent physical therapists from fulfilling professional obligations to patients and clients.

Principle #8: Physical therapists shall participate in efforts to meet the health needs of people locally, nationally, or globally.

(Core Value: Social Responsibility)

- 8A. Physical therapists shall provide pro bono physical therapist services or support organizations that meet the health needs of people who are economically disadvantaged, uninsured, and underinsured.
- 8B. Physical therapists shall advocate to reduce health disparities and health care inequities, improve access to health care services, and address the health, wellness, and preventive health care needs of people.
- 8C. Physical therapists shall be responsible stewards of health care resources and shall avoid overutilization or under- utilization of physical therapist services.
- 8D. Physical therapists shall educate members of the public about the benefits of physical therapy and the unique role of the physical therapist.

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Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant



HOD S06-20-31-26 [Amended HOD S06-19-47-68; HOD S06-09-20-18; HOD S06-00-13-24; HOD 06-91-06-07; Initial HOD 06-82-04-08] [Standard]

Preamble

The Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant (Standards of Ethical Conduct) delineate the ethical obligations of all physical therapist assistants as determined by the House of Delegates of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). The Standards of Ethical Conduct provide a foundation for conduct to which all physical therapist assistants shall adhere. Physical therapist assistants are guided by a set of core values (accountability, altruism, collaboration, compassion and caring, duty, excellence, integrity, and social responsibility). Throughout the document the primary core values that support specific principles are indicated in parentheses. Fundamental to the Standards of Ethical Conduct is the special obligation of physical therapist assistants to enable patients and clients to achieve greater independence, health and wellness, and enhanced quality of life.

No document that delineates ethical standards can address every situation. Physical therapist assistants are encouraged to seek additional advice or consultation in instances where the guidance of the Standards of Ethical Conduct may not be definitive. The APTA Guide for Conduct of the Physical Therapist Assistant and Core Values for the Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant provide additional guidance.

Standards

Standard #1: Physical therapist assistants shall respect the inherent dignity, and rights, of all individuals.

(Core Values: Compassion and Caring, Integrity)

- 1A. Physical therapist assistants shall act in a respectful manner toward each person regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, religion, ethnicity, social or economic status, sexual orientation, health condition, or disability.
- 1B. Physical therapist assistants shall recognize their personal biases and shall not discriminate against others in the provision of physical therapist services.

Standard #2: Physical therapist assistants shall be trustworthy and compassionate in addressing the rights and needs of patients and clients.

(Core Values: Altruism, Collaboration, Compassion and Caring, Duty)

- 2A. Physical therapist assistants shall act in the best interests of patients and clients over the interests of the physical therapist assistant.
- 2B. Physical therapist assistants shall provide physical therapist interventions with compassionate and caring behaviors that incorporate the individual and cultural differences of patients and clients.
- 2C. Physical therapist assistants shall provide patients and clients with information regarding the interventions they provide.
- 2D. Physical therapist assistants shall protect confidential patient and client information and, in collaboration with the physical therapist, may disclose confidential information to appropriate authorities only when allowed or as required by law.

Standard #3: Physical therapist assistants shall make sound decisions in collaboration with the physical therapist and within the boundaries established by laws and regulations.

(Core Values: Collaboration, Duty, Excellence, Integrity)

- 3A. Physical therapist assistants shall make objective decisions in the patient's or client's best interest in all practice settings.
- 3B. Physical therapist assistants shall be guided by information about best practice regarding physical therapist interventions.

- 3C. Physical therapist assistants shall make decisions based upon their level of competence and consistent with patient and client values.
- 3D. Physical therapist assistants shall not engage in conflicts of interest that interfere with making sound decisions.
- 3E. Physical therapist assistants shall provide physical therapist services under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist and shall communicate with the physical therapist when patient or client status requires modifications to the established plan of care.

Standard #4: Physical therapist assistants shall demonstrate integrity in their relationships with patients and clients, families, colleagues, students, research participants other health care providers, employers, payers, and the public.

(Core Value: Integrity)

- 4A. Physical therapist assistants shall provide truthful, accurate, and relevant information and shall not make misleading representations.
- 4B. Physical therapist assistants shall not exploit persons over whom they have supervisory, evaluative or other authority (eg, patients and clients, students, supervisees, research participants, or employees).
- 4C. Physical therapist assistants shall not engage in any sexual relationship with any of their patients and clients, supervisees, or students.
- 4D. Physical therapist assistants shall not harass anyone verbally, physically, emotionally, or sexually.
- 4E. Physical therapist assistants shall discourage misconduct by physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and other health care professionals and, when appropriate, report illegal or unethical acts, including verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual harassment, to an appropriate authority with jurisdiction over the conduct.
- 4F. Physical therapist assistants shall report suspected cases of abuse involving children or vulnerable adults to the appropriate authority, subject to law.

Standard #5: Physical therapist assistants shall fulfill their legal and ethical obligations.

(Core Values: Accountability, Duty, Social Responsibility)

- 5A. Physical therapist assistants shall comply with applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations.
- 5B. Physical therapist assistants shall support the supervisory role of the physical therapist to ensure quality care and promote patient and client safety.
- 5C. Physical therapist assistants involved in research shall abide by accepted standards governing protection of research participants.
- 5D. Physical therapist assistants shall encourage colleagues with physical, psychological, or substance-related impairments that may adversely impact their professional responsibilities to seek assistance or counsel.
- 5E. Physical therapist assistants who have knowledge that a colleague is unable to perform their professional responsibilities with reasonable skill and safety shall report this information to the appropriate authority.

Standard #6: Physical therapist assistants shall enhance their competence through the lifelong acquisition and refinement of knowledge, skills, and abilities.

(Core Value: Excellence)

- 6A. Physical therapist assistants shall achieve and maintain clinical competence.
- 6B. Physical therapist assistants shall engage in lifelong learning consistent with changes in their roles and responsibilities and advances in the practice of physical therapy.
- 6C. Physical therapist assistants shall support practice environments that support career development and lifelong learning.

Standard #7: Physical therapist assistants shall support organizational behaviors and business practices that benefit patients and clients and society.

(Core Values: Integrity, Accountability)

- 7A. Physical therapist assistants shall promote work environments that support ethical and accountable decision-making.
- 7B. Physical therapist assistants shall not accept gifts or other considerations that influence or give an appearance of influencing their decisions.

- 7C. Physical therapist assistants shall fully disclose any financial interest they have in products or services that they recommend to patients and clients.
- 7D. Physical therapist assistants shall ensure that documentation for their interventions accurately reflects the nature and extent of the services provided.
- 7E. Physical therapist assistants shall refrain from employment arrangements, or other arrangements, that prevent physical therapist assistants from fulfilling ethical obligations to patients and clients

Standard #8: Physical therapist assistants shall participate in efforts to meet the health needs of people locally, nationally, or globally.

(Core Value: Social Responsibility)

- 8A. Physical therapist assistants shall support organizations that meet the health needs of people who are economically disadvantaged, uninsured, and underinsured.
- 8B. Physical therapist assistants shall advocate for people with impairments, activity limitations, participation restrictions, and disabilities in order to promote their participation in community and society.
- 8C. Physical therapist assistants shall be responsible stewards of health care resources by collaborating with physical therapists in order to avoid overutilization or underutilization of physical therapist services.
- 8D. Physical therapist assistants shall educate members of the public about the benefits of physical therapy.

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