

HEALTH PRIORITIES FOR POPULATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS HOD P06-19-41-15 [Initial HOD P06-15-20-11]
[Position]

The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) supports the following health priorities for populations and individuals in the areas of prevention, wellness, fitness, health promotion, and management of disease and disability. The population health priorities that most relate to physical therapist practice in primary and secondary prevention and in disease management are active living, injury prevention, and secondary prevention in chronic disease and disability management.

- I. Physical therapists have unique opportunities with the following populations identified by the US National Prevention Strategy (USNPS):
 - A. Aging individuals and populations (risk of falls, more individuals living longer with chronic diseases and conditions, impact of reduced physical fitness on quality of life)
 - B. Individuals and populations of all ages with health disparities
 - C. Individuals and populations of all ages with chronic conditions, disabilities, and diseases that impact their ability to remain independent and physically active
- II. Physical therapists have unique opportunities in the following areas of injury prevention identified by USNPS:
 - A. Falls prevention
 - B. Workplace injury prevention
 - C. Community-based injury prevention
- III. Priorities for physical therapists in secondary prevention in chronic disease and disability management include:
 - A. Diseases and disabilities that impair an individual's body function or structure
 - B. Diseases and disabilities that limit an individual's activity
 - C. Diseases and disabilities that restrict an individual's participation in society
 - D. Diseases and disabilities that require modification of environmental factors to allow for full participation in society

Physical therapists provide education, behavioral strategies, patient advocacy, referral opportunities, and identification of supportive resources after screening for the following additional USNPS health priorities:

- Tobacco Free Living
- Preventing Drug Abuse and Excessive Alcohol Use
- Healthy Eating
- Active Living
- Mental and Emotional Well-Being
- Reproductive and Sexual Health
- Injury and Violence Free Living

Explanation of Reference Numbers:

HOD P00-00-00-00 stands for House of Delegates/**month/year/page/vote** in the House of Delegates minutes; the "P" indicates that it is a position (see below). For example, HOD P06-17-05-04 means that this position can be found in the June 2017 House of Delegates minutes on Page 5 and that it was Vote 4.

P: Position | S: Standard | G: Guideline | Y: Policy | R: Procedure