

PREFERRED NOMENCLATURE FOR THE PROVISION OF PHYSICAL THERAPIST SERVICES HOD P06-18-15-13

The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) defines and uses the following terms in its documents and publications to promote consistency and a common understanding and use of these terms external to APTA regarding the provision of physical therapist services.

1. "Physical therapist" – the professional practitioner of physical therapist services
2. "Physical therapist assistant" – the only individual who assists the physical therapist in practice
3. "Physical therapist services" or "physical therapist practice" – preferred nomenclature when referring to the provision of physical therapy. The term "physical therapy service" is appropriate when referring to a facility or a department in which physical therapist services are provided.
4. Professional titles – physical therapists are identified by their professional title, "physical therapist" or "doctor of physical therapy."

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