

PROVISION OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY HOD P06-11-19-15 [Position]

Whereas, People with disabilities commonly require assistive technology (AT) to meet their medical and functional needs;

Whereas, Complex rehabilitation technology (CRT) is a subset of AT including but not limited to individually configured manual wheelchair systems, power wheelchair systems, adaptive seating systems, alternative positioning systems, and other mobility devices;

Whereas, Physical therapists are key members in the CRT interprofessional service delivery team and are responsible for the following:

- performing the physical and functional examination, evaluation, and diagnosis of patient/client and environmental factors related to CRT;
- developing the CRT prognosis and plan of care and assisting with the CRT specifications including identifying therapeutic goals and expected outcomes related to the CRT intervention and training; assisting with CRT trials, simulations and identifying the person-to-technology feature match; and preparing clinical justification and medical documentation;
- participating in implementing the CRT intervention including assisting with the CRT fitting and providing function-related training in use of CRT; and,
- determining CRT outcomes and follow up; and,

Whereas, Physical therapist-recommended CRT devices are critical to patients/clients with disabilities to address and prevent body structure and functional limitations to maintain or increase their activity and participation in society;

Resolved, The American Physical Therapy Association supports the provision of assistive technology appropriately suited to the patient's/client's needs including but not limited to complex rehabilitation technology for people with disabilities; and,

Resolved, Licensed physical therapists should be recognized and appropriately paid for providing clinical services related to complex rehabilitation technology.

Relationship to Vision 2020: Autonomous Practice; Direct Access; Practitioner of Choice; Professionalism (Federal Gov't Affairs Department, ext 3156)

Explanation of Reference Numbers:

BOD P00-00-00-00 stands for Board of Directors/month/year/page/vote in the Board of Directors Minutes; the "P" indicates that it is a position (see below). For example, BOD P11-97-06-18 means that this position can be found in the November 1997 Board of Directors minutes on Page 6 and that it was Vote 18.

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