

**THE ROLE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY IN PALLIATIVE CARE AND HOSPICE HOD P06-19-54-22** [Initial: HOD P06-11-14-11]  
[Previously Titled: The Role of Physical Therapy in Hospice and Palliative Care] [Position]

The American Physical Therapy Association supports an active and compassionate role for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants in palliative care and hospice, consistent with the following concepts:

- Respect for the rights of all individuals to access physical therapist services, regardless of medical prognosis or setting
- An interprofessional approach, including timely physical therapist and physical therapist assistant involvement, especially during service transitions or during a physical or medical change in status, to ensure continuity of care
- Education of physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and respective students in the concepts related to treating an individual while in palliative care and hospice, including nonpharmacological pain management
- Education of patients and clients, families, and interprofessional team members on the unique role and contributions of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants in the management of a patient with a life-threatening illness
- Appropriate and comparable coverage and payment for physical therapist services for individuals who have transitioned to palliative care or hospice in all clinical settings

**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