

This position was rescinded during the 2014 House of Delegates (House). It will be taken offline in September 2014 once final language for all new and amended House positions have been posted. Draft language for all 2014 House actions will be found within the [Post-House Packet](#).



Last Updated: 06/30/14
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PHYSICAL THERAPIST RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE DELIVERY OF CARE HOD Y06-12-06-08 [POSITION]

Whereas, The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Vision Statement for Physical Therapy 2020 (Vision 2020) recognizes physical therapists as practitioners characterized by independent, self-determined professional judgment and action; and recognizes that physical therapists have the capability, ability, and responsibility to exercise professional judgment within their scope of practice and to professionally act on that judgment;

Whereas, Current APTA positions, standards, guidelines, policies, and procedures specify the use of specific personnel rather than recognizing the responsibility and accountability that accompany the independent judgment of contemporary physical therapist practice, which is characterized by the autonomous professional;

Whereas, To best meet the needs of the patient/client, it is necessary for physical therapists to maximize the ability to respond to the changes resulting from passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, including emerging models of care delivery and expanding numbers of insured consumers seeking care, thereby providing opportunities for physical therapist leadership; and,

Whereas, APTA Standards of Practice for Physical Therapy state that the physical therapist is responsible for the direction of physical therapy service, complies with all legal requirements of jurisdictions regulating the practice of physical therapy, involves appropriate others in the planning, implementation and assessment of the plan of care, and provides or directs and supervises the physical therapy intervention;

Resolved, That the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) recognizes that physical therapy is provided by, or under the direction and supervision of, a physical therapist. Evaluation remains the complete responsibility of the physical therapist.

Proviso to the Resolved Clause: This position will become effective upon implementation of necessary initiatives in education, practice, payment, regulation, and research, and adoption of requisite APTA positions, standards, guidelines, policies and procedures. Annual interim reports will be provided to the House of Delegates beginning in 2013.

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