CORE VALUES FOR THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST HOD P06-18-25-33 [Initial: HOD P05-07-19-19; Formerly Titled: Core Values: Endorsement] [Position]

Physical therapist practice is guided by a set of 7 core values, as stated in the Code of Ethics for the Physical Therapist: accountability, altruism, compassion and caring, excellence, integrity, professional duty, and social responsibility. The core values are defined as follows:

- **Accountability**
  Accountability is active acceptance of the responsibility for the diverse roles, obligations, and actions of the physical therapist including self-regulation and other behaviors that positively influence patient and client outcomes, the profession, and the health needs of society.

- **Altruism**
  Altruism is the primary regard for or devotion to the interest of patients and clients, thus assuming the fiduciary responsibility of placing the needs of patients and clients ahead of the physical therapist’s self-interest.

- **Compassion and Caring**
  Compassion is the desire to identify with or sense something of another’s experience; a precursor of caring.
  
  Caring is the concern, empathy, and consideration for the needs and values of others.

- **Excellence**
  Excellence is physical therapist practice for which the physical therapist consistently uses current knowledge and theory while understanding personal limits, integrates judgment and the patient or client perspective, embraces advancement, challenges mediocrity, and works toward development of new knowledge.

- **Integrity**
  Integrity is steadfast adherence to high ethical principles and professional standards, being truthful, ensuring fairness, following through on commitments, and verbalizing to others the rationale for actions.

- **Professional Duty**
  Professional duty is the commitment to meeting one’s obligations to provide effective physical therapist services to patients and clients, to serve the profession, and to positively influence the health of society.

- **Social Responsibility**
  Social responsibility is the promotion of a mutual trust between the profession and the larger public that necessitates responding to societal needs for health and wellness.

**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.