PROLIFERATION OF HEALTH OCCUPATIONS HOD P06-83-09-30 [Position]

Whereas, The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) recognizes its responsibility as a guardian of the public trust and well being to recognize new health care and health-related occupations and to facilitate their development if they can demonstrate true public benefit;

Whereas, New health care and health-related occupations are developing in apparent response to changes in technology and health style, as well as in response to the shift from an industrial economy to a service economy;

Whereas, The development of new health care and health-related occupations may represent proliferation of health occupations when it is duplicative, unjustified, and unnecessary;

Whereas, The proliferation of health occupations may have potential for confusing and misleading the health care consumer;

Whereas, The proliferation of health occupations may contribute to the fragmentation of health care services and may impede the humanistic approach of caring for the total individual;

Whereas, The proliferation of health occupations may contribute little or nothing to the health of the public or, worse yet, may in some instances jeopardize the health and well being of the public; and

Whereas, The proliferation of health occupations may escalate the cost of health care through the marketing of unnecessary or ineffective services, and may at the same time divert public expenditures away from necessary and effective health services;

Resolved, That APTA support the development of a new health occupation only when:

1. The role for that health occupation in relation to other existing health occupations is demonstrated to be unique and justified,
2. The services to be performed by that health occupation are demonstrated to be both necessary and effective,
3. The educational preparation for that health occupation is adequate to assure the safe, effective, and ethical delivery of services unique to that occupation, and
4. The plan for development of the health occupation includes an effective system for quality assurance in the delivery of services.

Relationship to Vision 2020: Practitioner of Choice; (Practice Department, ext 3176)

[Document updated: 12/14/2009]

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.