American Physical Therapy Association Partners With Department of Veterans Affairs to Support and Enhance Veterans’ Health

Alexandria, VA, December 28, 2018 – The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) has entered into a new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to promote and enhance the health and well-being of our nation’s veterans.

APTA’s mission is to build a community that advances the profession of physical therapy to improve the health of society. VA is committed to pursuing responsible and productive public-private partnerships with nongovernmental organizations to provide services and support to reach more veterans.

“APTA finds its roots in the military, and we are thrilled to be partnering with VA to give back to America’s veterans and ensure that they are receiving the physical therapy care they need,” said APTA CEO Justin Moore, PT, DPT. “Our veterans sacrifice so much for our country, and for that we are grateful. I am confident this agreement will lead to even better health care, results, and, ultimately, improved quality of life for them.”

“Physical therapy is a critical resource for our veterans in improving their health and well-being. This MOA is another example of collaboration between VA and our professional organizations, and will foster the expansion of best practices in the treatment of veterans within the federal and private sector,” according to Lucille Beck, PhD, acting Deputy Under Secretary of Health for Policy and Services. “We look forward to expanding our collaborative efforts and the positive outcomes this partnership will bring.”

The MOA between APTA and VA will have local and national impact, leveraging the strengths of both organizations to benefit all stakeholders, particularly veterans, physical therapists, and physical therapist assistants. It will also help to raise awareness of the physical therapy profession while potentially creating new employment and practice opportunities for PTs, physical therapist assistants, and students of physical therapy.
More specifically, the agreement will help the 2 organizations work together and leverage each’s resources to promote:

- Nonpharmacological treatment options for pain,
- VA’s suicide prevention efforts, and
- The availability and utilization of the VA’s AdaptiveSports Grants Program, and encourage PTs to volunteer to support the VA’s Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events.

The American Physical Therapy Association represents more than 100,000 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and students of physical therapy nationwide. Visit MoveForwardPT.com to learn more about the types of conditions physical therapists treat, and find a physical therapist in your area. To learn more, visit www.apta.org.

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