

Specialty and Subspecialty Definitions



BOD P05-21-02-05 [Position]

Specialty: An explicit practice focus on a patient or client population or a set of conditions within physical therapy.

Subspecialty: A distinct subset of knowledge and skills within one or more physical therapy specialties.

Proviso: These definitions have been adopted by the APTA Board of Directors to provide guidance to the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties and the American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education until the House of Delegates can have a broader discussion on the topic of specialization in 2021. This position will be further considered and forwarded to the 2022 House of Delegates. At a meeting following the 2022 House, the Board will consider whether the intent of this document has been met by House action. If it has, this position will be officially rescinded. If no action is taken the Board will review and consider future action to keep, modify, or rescind.

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

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Contact: governancehouse@apta.org