

Main Motion to the 2024 House of Delegates



Required for Adoption: Majority Vote

Category: IN-8

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PROPOSED BY: OHIO, SOUTH CAROLINA, CARDIOVASCULAR AND PULMONARY, INNOVATION AND LEADERSHIP, & STUDENT COUNCIL

RC 11-24 ADOPT: ETHICAL AND EFFECTIVE INTEGRATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ACROSS PHYSICAL THERAPIST PRACTICE, EDUCATION, AND RESEARCH

That the following be adopted:

ETHICAL AND EFFECTIVE INTEGRATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ACROSS PHYSICAL THERAPIST PRACTICE

The American Physical Therapy Association supports the ethical development and integration of artificial intelligence that reduces administrative burden and enhances physical therapist practice, education, and research for the best interest of patients, clients, the profession, and society.

SS:

A. What is the expected outcome of this motion? How does it contribute to achieving the Vision? Does it support APTA priorities (as reflected in the current [Strategic Plan](#)), and if so, how?

Outcome: This motion aims to promote the ethical development and use of AI technologies to enhance physical therapist and physical therapist assistant education, physical therapy research, patient care, and overall outcomes. Additionally, this motion emphasizes the importance of avoiding unethical practices that may compromise foundational learning, patient safety, and the integrity of the therapeutic relationship through AI replacement of human (Physical Therapist/Physical Therapist Assistant) judgment in critical decision-making processes. We hope that the APTA BOD will initiate a process of working with key stakeholders to explore the challenges and opportunities associated with AI now and into the future.

Vision: AI has the capability to impact students, physical therapy educators, clinicians, researchers and employers alike. This motion contributes to the vision by incorporating professional identity through:

- Expanding access to and increasing the visibility of PT services.
- Using quality data mining and analysis to identify best practices.
- Decreasing the potential for clinician burnout and improving advocacy in practice, education, and research settings. These all safeguard the future of the profession.

Being a leader in adopting and ethically and efficiently using AI technologies shows innovation and value.

Strategic plan: this motion has connections to all four pillars in the following ways:

1 **Sustainable Profession:** Improving provider health and well-being through decreased administrative
2 burden.

3 **Quality Care:** Elevating the quality of care and overall health outcomes by meeting patients where they
4 are to provide services and expanding evidence-based practice.

5 **Demand and Access:** Establishing proven pathways to improved outcomes.

6 **Member value:** APTA member resources on the subject of AI and forward movement of DEI efforts.
7

8 **B. How is this motion’s subject national in scope or importance?** 9

10 Artificial intelligence in healthcare will impact every patient, student, professor, researcher, and physical
11 therapy clinician. We are following the National Academy of Medicine as its Leadership Consortium
12 collaborates with leading health, tech, research, and bioethics organizations to develop a Health Care AI
13 Code of Conduct. AI is here to stay and has endless potential. By leveraging artificial intelligence ethically
14 and effectively, we can have streamlined processes to increase efficiencies; alleviate administrative
15 burden; improve payment/reimbursement; prevent fraud and abuse; produce exemplary research and
16 educational models; admit individuals with the greatest potential for success in the profession, and tailor
17 learning experiences to individual students’ needs to provide targeted intervention and enhance
18 accessibility.; tools to reduce barriers for students who have historically struggled.
19

20 **What previous or current activities of the House, Board, or staff address this topic? Who are the**
21 **interested parties that might be affected by this motion (internal to APTA as well as relevant**
22 **groups external to APTA)? Are there any state or federal laws or regulations which also address**
23 **this topic; if so, what are they?**
24

25 Communication with the Board of Directors revealed that the topic of AI has been discussed conceptually,
26 but no formal actions have been taken to date.
27

28 Internally, all components of the APTA are certainly interested parties that will be affected by this motion.
29 External groups impacted by AI would include patients and potential students, as well as other
30 professional bodies who may wish to collaborate as this emerging technology is explored and navigated.
31

32 The White House has passed an Executive Order on the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and
33 Use of Artificial Intelligence. Additionally, 17 states have passed laws on AI in the past 5 years. The scope
34 of these laws includes interdisciplinary collaboration, protection from unsafe or ineffective systems, data
35 privacy, transparency, protection from discrimination, and accountability. The interdisciplinary collaboration
36 law has created task forces to identify the potential impacts of AI systems on consumers, potential public
37 sector uses, and cybersecurity challenges (IL, TX, VT, NY). The protection from unsafe or ineffective
38 systems has directed state agencies to analyze AI systems being used and send a report to their
39 respective governors based on potential unintended or emerging effects and potential risks of these
40 systems (CA, CT, LA, VT). The data privacy laws have been enacted to “protect individuals from abusive
41 data practices (i.e., the inappropriate, irrelevant or unauthorized use or reuse of consumer data) and
42 ensure that they have agency over how an AI system collects and uses data about them (CA, CO, CT, DE,
43 IN, IA, MT, OR, TN, TX, VA).” The transparency law requires employers or businesses to disclose when
44 and how an AI system is being used (CA, IL, MD, NY). For the protection from discrimination, it requires
45 those that develop or use AI systems to assess the potential for bias and discrimination to protect
46 individuals from discrimination and ensure AI systems are designed equitably (CA, CO, IL). For
47 accountability, the goal is “to ensure that those developing and deploying AI systems are complying with
48 the rules and standards governing AI systems and are being held accountable if they do not meet them
49 (CA, CO, CT, DE, IN, IW, MT, OR, TN, TX, VA, WA).”
50

51 **C. Additional Background Information.**

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2 *This motion* Provides a foundation for ethical standards, promoting accountability/minimizing risk of
3 unintended consequences, enhancing public trust, fostering innovation, and positioning the profession as
4 a responsible leader in the evolving landscape of technology.

5
6 **D. How has this motion concept been disseminated, or how does the motion maker plan to**
7 **disseminate the concept to other delegates prior to the deadline for submission of main motions?**

8
9 To date, all of the following groups have collaborated on this Motion: Ohio Chapter, South Carolina
10 Chapter, Student Council, Academy of Leadership and Innovation, Academy of Cardiovascular and
11 Pulmonary, our APTA Board Liaison, the Reference Committee and House Officers present in the RC
12 Zoom meeting. We have sought a meeting with the Ethics and Judicial Committee through our APTA
13 Board Liaison. That meeting has yet to be scheduled.

14 Although we have not yet had the opportunity to speak with the following groups, we believe that they may
15 also have an interest in giving input toward the Motion: Foundation for PT Research, Research Academy,
16 Academy of Education, and FSBPT.

17 We are following the National Academy of Medicine as their Leadership Consortium collaborates with
18 leading health, tech, research, and bioethics organizations to develop a Health Care AI Code of Conduct.
19 [Health Care Artificial Intelligence Code of Conduct - National Academy of Medicine \(nam.edu\)](https://nam.edu/programs/value-science-driven-health-care/health-care-artificial-intelligence-code-of-conduct/) This may
20 help to inform appropriate conduct for physical therapy professionals while protecting stakeholders.

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