

1 **AMERICAN BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY SPECIALTIES (ABPTS)**

2
3 Board Liaison: TBA

4 Staff Liaison: TBA

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6 Pursuant to association policy [APTA Clinical Specialization Policy](#), the American Board of Physical
7 Therapy Specialties guides the American Physical Therapy Association's Clinical Specialization
8 Program and its specialty councils. ABPTS provides strategic advice, recommendations, and counsel
9 to the APTA Board of Directors regarding clinical specialization.

10 11 **CHARGE**

12 Per Board policy [American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties](#), the Board of Directors' determined
13 charge for ABPTS is to:

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- 15 • Provide counsel to the Board on issues related to clinical specialization, certification
- 16 standards, and professional recognition.
- 17 • Establish criteria for each subspecialty and subspecialty.
- 18 • Provide an efficient and credible system for the evaluation, certification, and maintenance of
- 19 certification of physical therapist specialization and subspecialization.
- 20 • Establish and maintain processes and procedures for the operations of the certification and
- 21 maintenance of certification processes.
- 22 • Develop minimum requirements for certification and maintenance of certification to be used
- 23 across all specialties and subspecialties.
- 24 • Oversee specialty panels, which define, develop, and modify the requirements for certification
- 25 and recertification.
- 26 • Establish standard operating procedures specific to examination administration and scoring.
- 27 • Serve as the appeal body for individuals whose eligibility application for initial certification or
- 28 recertification is denied by a specialty panel.
- 29 • Approve certification and recertification of qualified clinical specialists in each specialty and
- 30 subspecialty.
- 31 • Determine outcomes of requests for reconsideration of certification and recertification
- 32 decisions.
- 33 • Provide consultation to and oversee activities of approved specialty panels.
- 34 • Provide formal recognition to board certified clinical specialists and subspecialists.
- 35 • Make appointments to ABPTS, specialty panels, and examination item writers.
- 36 • Provide consultation to and oversee activities of approved specialty panels, which define,
- 37 develop, and modify the requirements for certification and recertification.
- 38 • Review petitions for the formation of new specialty and subspecialty areas and make
- 39 appropriate recommendations to the Board of Directors for consideration by the House of
- 40 Delegates.

- 1 • Set reasonable and appropriate certification fees to ensure that ABPTS and certification staff
- 2 can effectively carry out their roles and responsibilities.
- 3 • Advise and counsel the APTA Board of Directors on proposed and existing Association
- 4 policies, positions, and the APTA Code of Ethics for the Physical Therapy Profession, as
- 5 requested.
- 6 • Coordinate and collaborate with other APTA appointed groups and stakeholders, when doing
- 7 so can further the work of the committee.
- 8 • Submit an annual report to the Board of Directors.

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10 All APTA appointed groups conduct their work to support APTA’s Mission, Vision, Strategic Plan, and
11 APTA adopted policies and positions. All appointees shall agree to the APTA Volunteer Commitment.

12 **QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTEES**

13 Shall be:

- 14 • Board-certified physical therapists representing a range of specialty areas (for clinical
- 15 members) and are APTA members in good standing with a minimum of two years’ experience
- 16 with any of the following
- 17
 - 18 ○ Specialty panel or related activities (e.g., external professional development portfolio
 - 19 15 reviewer, standard setting participant).
 - 20 ○ Specialization Academy of Content Experts.
 - 21 ○ American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education Board of
 - 22 Commissioners.
- 23 • One individual who serves as a test and measurements expert member who may be a
- 24 physical therapist and shall have expertise in education and evaluation.
- 25 • One individual who serves as the consumer member who shall not be a physical therapist or
- 26 physical therapist assistant.
- 27 • One individual who serves as the public member and is a professional from a different health
- 28 care discipline.

29 **MEETINGS**

30 This commission holds three annual funded in-person meetings and meets virtually on a quarterly

31 basis, as needed.

32 **SIZE OF APPOINTED GROUP**

33 The commission consists of one chair and 11 members consisting of nine board-certified physical

34 therapist members, one testing and measurement expert member, and one public member and one

35 consumer member who may not be physical therapists or physical therapist assistants. The APTA

36 President appoints an APTA Board member to serve as the ABPTS liaison each year.

37 **TERMS OF APPOINTEES**

38 Commissioners shall serve four-year terms beginning January 1 and may serve a maximum of one

39 consecutive full term (partial terms do not count as a full term).