

ACCESS TO DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT HOD P06-18-19-29 [Initial: HOD P06-13-28-28] [Position]

Whereas, Physical therapists are movement experts who improve patients' and clients' ability to move, reduce pain, restore function, enhance participation, manage chronic disease, and prevent disability;

Whereas, Physical therapists, individually and as key members of interprofessional teams, are responsible for evaluating, recommending, justifying, and documenting the need for durable medical equipment (DME);

Whereas, Consumers are increasingly experiencing delays and barriers to obtaining clinician-recommended equipment that meets their needs, and specified equipment is being replaced with dissimilar products with the same code; and,

Whereas, Payment policies, laws, and regulations have resulted in barriers to consumer choice, timely access, and high-quality DME and related services;

Resolved, That The American Physical Therapy Association supports physical therapists as authorized prescribers of durable medical equipment;

Resolved, That The American Physical Therapy Association supports and advocates for patients' and clients' access to high-quality, cost-effective, appropriate durable medical equipment; and,

Resolved, That The American Physical Therapy Association supports and advocates for patients' and clients' access to technology-related durable medical equipment services and to clinically related durable medical equipment services including professional services provided by physical therapists, and will advocate for choice, access, quality, cost-effectiveness, and adequate funding to allow patients and clients to live active and productive lives in their homes and communities.

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