

PHYSICAL THERAPISTS AND PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS IN SAFE PATIENT HANDLING AND MOBILITY HOD P06-19-24-10 [Initial: HOD P06-12-21-20;] [Previously Titled: The Role of Physical Therapy in Safe Patient Handling] [Position]

The American Physical Therapy Association supports physical therapists and physical therapist assistants employing the concepts of safe patient handling and mobility while providing services, and leading the development, implementation, refinement, and maintenance of safe patient handling and mobility programs on an institutional level and at the local, state, and federal government levels.

Safe patient handling and mobility refers to policies and programs that enable health service workers to move patients and clients in a way that does not cause strain or injury and minimizes manual lifting while maximizing the comfort and safety of patients as recommended by National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines.

Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants are experts in rehabilitation and prevention of injury and strain to individuals, fall prevention, and utilizing technology to facilitate optimal patient outcomes while maintaining patient and client, caregiver, and provider safety.

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