POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR THE OUTSTANDING PHYSICAL THERAPIST/PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT TEAM

AWARD BOD Y06-08-02-02 [Amended BOD Y03-08-03-03; BOD Y03-07-07-14; BOD Y06-06-05-12; BOD Y07-04-01-01] [Policy]

History
In June 1999, APTA’s House of Delegates adopted “Vision 2020” – an intentional expression of the preferred state of the physical therapy profession by 2020. The vision statement identifies the primary preferred expectations for the physical therapy profession that are designed to benefit patients/clients, physical therapists and physical therapist assistants, and the delivery of high-quality physical therapy services in a complex and uncertain health care environment.

Because “Vision 2020” has profound implications for the physical therapist and for the physical therapist assistant, in June 2001, the House of Delegates charged the Board of Directors (RC 40-01), in collaboration with the National Assembly, to undertake a study to determine the future/preferred role of the PTA. In November 2001, the Board appointed a 7-person Task Force to fulfill the charge, and subsequently the group began its study of the future role of the PTA in light of four key elements: scope of work, education level, post entry-level education and employment/market factors. An interim report was presented to the 2002 House and a final report in 2003. One item that came from the study, under scope of work, was the identified need to educate PTs and PTAs about the appropriate utilization of the PTA and PT/PTA Team.

In addition in 2002, the National Assembly proposed a motion (RC 64-02) to the House of Delegates, requesting that APTA establish an annual award to recognize a physical therapist and physical therapist assistant team that exemplifies the preferred relationship between the PT and PTA in physical therapy. Unfortunately, due to time constraints, the House did not take action on this motion. In November 2002, the Board approved a motion (B of D 11/02, V-78) to establish an Outstanding PT/PTA Team Award that would allow for recognition of outstanding teamwork between physical therapists and physical therapist assistants.

Purpose
To recognize outstanding clinical practice interaction between physical therapists and physical therapist assistants who are a part of a highly functional PT/PTA Team.

In addition to the information provided in the APTA Board of Directors’ Policy and Procedures Regarding APTA Honors and Awards, the following criteria apply to this award:

Criteria for Eligibility

1. Each physical therapist or physical therapist assistant nominee must have been engaged in providing clinical services for at least 5 years.

2. Been licensed or regulated if required by the jurisdiction where the individual is working.

3. The composition of the team may include one or more physical therapists and one or more physical therapist assistants.
4. Current members of the APTA Board of Directors and members of the APTA Awards Committee - Practice and Service Awards Subcommittee are not eligible to be nominated for this award and shall not nominate, write letters of support, or endorse an individual for this award.

Physical therapist and physical therapist assistant teams must have:

4. Worked together (existed) in a clinical practice of any setting for at least 3 years.

5. Positively affected the quality of physical therapy care provided to patients/clients in their practice setting as a result of their ability to work as a team.

6. Contributed to the enhancement of the overall delivery of physical therapy services in their practice setting as a result of their teamwork.

7. A formal (written) or informal (communicated) team protocol that includes team structure, method of communication, determination of assignments to patients/clients, and method of supervision related to patient/client needs.

Criteria for Selection

The PT/PTA team relationship:

1. Is characterized by trust, mutual respect, adaptability, cooperation, and an appreciation of individual and cultural differences.

2. Involves direction, supervision and effective communication.

3. Has been enhanced through mentoring, continuing education and professional development.

4. Has had an effect on the delivery of high quality physical therapy services to patients/clients within their practice setting.

Procedure for Nomination

1. Nominations must be submitted electronically via APTA’s website (www.apta.org). All materials completed and submitted for each nomination must be received by the APTA Honors and Awards Program by 5:00 pm Eastern time on December 1, for consideration for the award.

2. The nominator is responsible for reviewing and ensuring the completion of all steps and compliance with the eligibility criteria within the online nomination submission process before its final submission. During the online process, the following documents will be required for upload:

A. Current curriculum vitae or resume of the nominees (both PT and PTA).

B. A letter of nomination (from the nominator) that specifically focuses on the strengths of the nominated PT/PTA Team in relation to the award criteria, not to exceed 3 pages.

C. Two (2) letters of support, not to exceed 2 pages each, obtained from individuals (patients, peers, colleagues, employees, etc.) upon whom the team has had an impact, which specifically address one or more of the criterion(a) for selection.
D. Description of the team’s formal (written) or informal (communicated) protocol: team structure, method of communication, determination of assignments to patients/clients, method of supervision related to patient/client needs.

Notification of Award

1. Members of the PT/PTA team selected as recipients and the nominator will be notified promptly after selection by APTA’s Board of Directors.

2. The nominators of PT/PTA teams not selected will receive a letter thanking them for their participation.

Nature of Award

An engraved crystal award will be presented to each physical therapist and physical therapist assistant member of the PT/PTA team. The award will be presented by APTA’s Board of Directors at the NEXT Conference and Exposition and an official announcement will appear in an Association publication.

(Member Services Department, ext. 8082)

Explanation of Reference Numbers:
BOD P00-00-00-00 stands for Board of Directors/month/year/page/vote in the Board of Directors Minutes; the "P" indicates that it is a position (see below). For example, BOD P11-97-06-18 means that this position can be found in the November 1997 Board of Directors minutes on Page 6 and that it was Vote 18.