The American Physical Therapy Association recognizes the right of physical therapists to apply for and to be granted practice privileges in institutional settings.

**Definition**

Practice Privileges (synonymous with Clinical Privileges); Authorization by the governing body to provide specific patient/client management services in the organization, within well-defined limits, based on an individual's license, education, training, experience, competence, and judgment. The privileges may encompass the full scope of physical therapy practice as defined by state law or be limited to a specific clinical service or patient/client population.

**Guidelines for Application and Review**

When submitting or considering applications for privileges, the following guidelines may be utilized by the applicant and institution:

- Review Medical Staff Standards of the Joint Commission which describe the process for the delineation of practice privileges.
- Review physical therapy departmental qualifications, including procedures to apply for practice privileges, for eligibility to practice at the institution.
- Review the institution's medical staff bylaws and procedures for the granting of practice privileges.
- Review the specific criteria which the institution utilizes to assess eligibility for conferring practice privileges to non-physicians.
- Define the scope of physical therapy services to be provided at the institution based on identified need.
- Evaluate the facility's resources needed to adequately provide these services, ie, equipment and space.
- Acquire necessary documentation of credentials, including current license, relevant training and experience, evidence of current competence, and proof of liability insurance.
- Conduct discussion with institutional-based physical therapy personnel and other appropriate medical staff to promote coordination of services.
- Consider a reimbursement method for services provided.
- Assure the avoidance of conflicts of interest which compromise patient/client care or jeopardize the institution's ability to comply with applicable laws.

**Applicant/Recipient Responsibilities**

Adherence to the following responsibilities is essential to the provision of coordinated quality physical therapy services within the institution:

- Meet the responsibilities required by Medical Staff Rules and Regulations, and if not so specified, meet the responsibilities specified in the Medical Staff Bylaws, Section on Membership, as generally applicable to the practice of physical therapy.
- Meet the responsibilities required to practice physical therapy at the institution, including those specified in physical therapy practice standards and institutional policies and procedures.
• Be responsible for the management and supervision of each patient/client for whom services are provided.
• Participate in the institution's quality assurance program to assure the provision of quality patient/client care through the monitoring and evaluation activities required of physical therapists.
• Maintain professional competence by pursuing professional development opportunities which would include, but not be limited to, formal education, seminars, conferences, workshops, self-study, and advanced clinical residencies.
• Prepare and complete in a timely fashion, the medical and other required records for all patients/clients for which physical therapy services are provided.
• Abide by the state laws and the ethical principles of the profession of physical therapy.
• Work cooperatively with other physical therapists, both institutionally based and those with practice privileges, as well as medical staff members and other institutional personnel.
• Provide written disclosure of any financial arrangement with a referring practitioner or any other potential conflict of interest that may compromise patient/client care or jeopardize the institution's ability to comply with applicable laws.

Relationship to Vision 2020: Autonomous Practice; (Practice Department, ext 3176)

[Document updated: 12/14/2009]

**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.