USE OF THE TITLE “DOCTOR” BY PHYSICAL THERAPISTS HOD P06-06-21-14 [Position]

The American Physical Therapy Association supports the use of the title of “Doctor of Physical Therapy” only for those physical therapists who have graduated from a DPT program.

In order to provide accurate information to consumers, physical therapists who have earned a Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree (DPT) and those who have earned other doctoral degrees and use the title “Doctor” in practice settings shall indicate they are physical therapists. Use of the title shall be in accordance with jurisdictional law.

Relationship to Vision 2020: Doctor of Physical Therapy, Professionalism; (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.