

Clinical Specialization in Physical Therapy



HOD P07-23-06-08: [Amended: HOD P06-19-66-30; HOD P06-16-10-11; HOD P06-06-22-15; HOD P06-94-23-39; HOD 06-89-35-77; HOD 06-89-34-75; HOD 06-85-28-55; HOD 06-82-08-26; HOD 06-82-08-25; HOD 06-81-15-54; HOD 06-81-15-53; HOD 06-81-15-52; HOD 06-81-14-51; HOD 06-80-08-25; HOD 06-79-15-41; HOD 06-78-20-51; Initial: 06-78-17-40] [Position]

The American Physical Therapy Association supports the recognition of physical therapists who have attained voluntary specialization of practice.

Specialization is the process by which a physical therapist builds on a broad base of professional education and practice to develop greater depth of knowledge and skills related to a particular area of practice. Clinical specialization in physical therapy responds to a specific area of patient need and requires knowledge, skill, and experience that exceeds entry-level physical therapist practice and is unique to the specialized area of specialty or subspecialty practice.

Specialty is an explicit practice focus on a patient or client population or a set of conditions within physical therapy.

Subspecialty is a distinct subset of knowledge and skills within one or more physical therapy specialties.

Explanation of Reference Numbers [use for House policy]:

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 P06-22-05-04 means that this position can be found in the June 2022 House of Delegates minutes on Page 5 and that it was Vote 4.

E: Binding Ethical Document | P: Position | Y: Policy

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