Standards of Physical Therapy Practice

The World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) recognises the absolute importance of the development and documentation of agreed standards for the practice of physical therapy. These standards are necessary to:

- demonstrate to the public that physical therapists are concerned with the quality of the services provided and are willing to implement self-regulatory programmes to maintain that quality
- guide the development of professional education
- guide practitioners in the conduct and evaluation of their practices
- provide governments, regulatory bodies and other professional groups with background information about the professional nature of physical therapy
- effectively communicate with members of the profession, employers, other health professions, governments and the public

WCPT recognises the diverse social, political and economic environments in which physical therapy is practised throughout the world. Thus, specific standards for physical therapy practice must be developed by each member organisation to suit prevailing circumstances.

Where political environments dictate, national associations may unite to formulate agreed standards that may be applicable to that group.

The following principles should be considered in the process of developing standards:

1. reflect the values, conditions and goals necessary for the continuing advancement of the profession
2. based on valid principles and be measurable to the extent possible
3. designed to assist the profession to meet the changing needs of the community
4. based upon clear definitions of the scope of practice and accountability
5. sufficiently broad and flexible to achieve their objectives and, at the same time, permit innovation, growth and change
6. subject to regular review with revision as required

National practice standards should be set in the following areas:

- administration and practice management
- communication
- community responsibility
- documentation
- education
- ethical behaviour
- informed consent
- legal
- patient/client management
- personal/professional development
- quality assurance
- research
- support personnel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date adopted:</th>
<th>Approved at the 13th General Meeting of WCPT June 1995 and revised at the 15th General Meeting of WCPT June 2003. Revised and re-approved at the 16th General Meeting of WCPT June 2007.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date for review:</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Related WCPT Policies: | Declaration of Principle: Quality Services  
Position Statement: Standards of Practice |

Copyright © World Confederation for Physical Therapy 2007