

PT/PTA **Scope of Practice Decision-making Algorithm Guideline**

An individual physical therapist's scope of practice is influenced by professional, jurisdictional, and personal scopes of practice.

Over the course of the physical therapist's career, scope of practice evolves based on considerations including, but not limited to, societal needs; progressive professional development activities of the physical therapist; modifications to jurisdictional laws and regulations; advancements in knowledge, research, clinical skills, and technology; and the evolving health delivery system.

The professional scope of physical therapist practice is grounded in basic, behavioral, and clinical sciences. It is supported by education, based on a body of evidence, and linked to existing and emerging practice frameworks. The professional scope of practice evolves in response to innovation, research, collaboration, and changes in societal needs.

The professional scope of practice consists of patient and client management, which includes diagnosis and prognosis, to optimize physical function, movement, performance, health, quality of life, and well-being across the lifespan. In addition, the professional scope of practice includes contributions to public health services aimed at improving population health and the human experience.

The jurisdictional scope of physical therapist practice is established by the Practice Act governing the specific physical therapist's license and the rules adopted pursuant to that act.

The personal scope of physical therapist practice consists of activities for which an individual physical therapist is educated, trained, and is competent to perform.

> Position of the American Physical Therapy **Association House of Delegates** HOD P06-17-09-16/HOD P06-17-08-07

This decision-making algorithm is for informational purposes only. The guidelines do not purport to establish a standard of care or advise on a course of action for patient care in any particular situation. PT's and PTA's are encouraged to read the Practice Act found at SDCL 36-10, ARSD 20:66.

Is the activity, intervention, or role prohibited by SDCL 36-10-35.7, any rule or regulation associated with these chapters of codified law, or any other applicable laws, rules, regulations, ethical standards, or codes of conduct?

NO

Is performing the activity, intervention, or role consistent with:

- The entry level education that prepared you for licensure?
- National standards of practice?
- · Current literature and evidence-informed care/research?
- Institution policy/procedure?
- Institution accreditation standards?

And, are there practice setting policies and procedures in place to support performing the activity, intervention, or role, including, but not limited to, the appropriate level of supervision?

And, is performing the activity, intervention, or role consistent with reasonable and prudent practice?

YES

YES

And, do you have the necessary knowledge, skill, and experience to perform the activity, intervention, or role safely?

And, will you have the appropriate resources to perform the activity, intervention, or role in this setting?

And, are you prepared and willing to:

- Manage the results for the activity, intervention, or
- · Assume accountability and liability for your decisions and outcomes within your clinic or practice setting?

YES

And, if appropriate to the situation, are you approved or credentialed to provide the activity, intervention, or role in your practice setting?

The PT or PTA may perform the activity, intervention, or role to acceptable and prevailing standards of safe care

STOP - Performing the activity, intervention, or role by the PT/PTA may call into question acceptable and prevailing standards of safe care.

NO

NO

NO

NO

NO

NO