

Standard 7

The curriculum includes content, learning experiences, and student testing and evaluation processes designed to prepare students to achieve educational outcomes required for initial practice in physical therapy and for lifelong learning necessary for functioning within an ever-changing health care environment.

7D The physical therapist professional curriculum includes content and learning experiences designed to prepare students to achieve educational outcomes required for initial practice of physical therapy. Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to:

Evidence of Compliance:

Narrative:

- For each of the following elements:
 - Describe where the content is presented in the curriculum and provide example(s)/descriptions(s) of the learning experiences that are designed to meet the practice expectations (i.e., describe where and how the content is taught throughout the curriculum);
 - Provide a maximum of 5 examples of course objectives that demonstrate the highest expected level of student performance, include course **prefix and number, course name, objective number and the full wording of the objective**. Include objectives from clinical education courses, if applicable. If the expectation is a curricular theme, examples of course objectives from multiple courses are required, up to a maximum of 10 objectives; and
 - Describe outcome data, where available, that demonstrates the level of actual student achievement. **For Initial Accreditation ONLY**, describe how the program will determine the actual level of student achievement, including planned outcome data.
 - **For Initial Accreditation ONLY**: if curricular changes have occurred since the program started, provide the requested information based on the curriculum experienced by the charter class. Contact Accreditation Staff to discuss what additional information should be provided for the current curriculum.
- If the program teaches content beyond what is addressed in Elements 7D1-7D43, identify the content, where and how it is taught and the highest expected performance level. If being taught to competency, identify how and where competency is tested.

Appendices & On-site Material: See SSR Instructions & Forms

Professional Ethics, Values and Responsibilities

- 7D1** Adhere to legal practice standards, including all federal, state, and institutional regulations related to patient/client care and fiscal management.
- 7D2** Report to appropriate authorities suspected cases of abuse of vulnerable populations.
- 7D3** Report to appropriate authorities suspected cases of fraud and abuse related to the utilization of and payment for physical therapy and other health care services.
- 7D4** Practice in a manner consistent with the APTA *Code of Ethics*.
- 7D5** Practice in a manner consistent with the APTA *Core Values*.
- 7D6** Implement, in response to an ethical situation, a plan of action that demonstrates sound moral reasoning congruent with core professional ethics and values.
- 7D7** Communicate effectively with all stakeholders, including patients/clients, family members, caregivers, practitioners, interprofessional team members, consumers, payers, and policymakers.

- 7D8** Identify, respect, and act with consideration for patients'/clients' differences, values, preferences, and expressed needs in all professional activities.
- 7D9** Access and critically analyze scientific literature.
- 7D10** Apply current knowledge, theory, and professional judgment while considering the patient/client perspective, the environment, and available resources.
- 7D11** Identify, evaluate and integrate the best evidence for practice with clinical judgment and patient/client values, needs, and preferences to determine the best care for a patient/client.
- 7D12** Effectively educate others using teaching methods that are commensurate with the needs of the learner, including participation in the clinical education of students.
- 7D13** Participate in professional and community organizations that provide opportunities for volunteerism, advocacy and leadership.
- 7D14** Advocate for the profession and the healthcare needs of society through legislative and political processes.
- 7D15** Identify career development and lifelong learning opportunities, including the role of the physical therapist in the clinical education of physical therapist students.

Patient/Client Management Screening

- 7D16** Determine when patients/clients need further examination or consultation by a physical therapist or referral to another health care professional.

Examination, Evaluation and Diagnosis

- 7D17** Obtain a history and relevant information from the patient/client and from other sources as needed.
- 7D18** Perform systems review¹.
- 7D19** Select, and competently administer tests and measures² appropriate to the patient's age, diagnosis and health status including, but not limited to, those that assess:
- Aerobic Capacity/Endurance
 - Anthropometric Characteristics
 - Assistive Technology
 - Balance
 - Circulation (Arterial, Venous, Lymphatic)
 - Self-Care and Civic, Community, Domestic, Education, Social and Work Life
 - Cranial and Peripheral Nerve Integrity

¹ **Systems Review:** Including the cardiovascular/pulmonary system through the assessment of blood pressure, heart rate, respiration rate, and edema; the integumentary system through the gross assessment of skin color, turgor, integrity, and the presence of scar; the musculoskeletal system through the gross assessment of range of motion, strength, symmetry, height, and weight; the neuromuscular system through the general assessment of gross coordinated movement and motor function; and the gross assessment of communication ability, affect, cognition, language, and learning style, consciousness, orientation, and expected behavioral/emotional responses.

² **Test and Measures:** The list is adapted from the *Guide to Physical Therapist Practice (2014)*.

- h. Environmental Factors
- i. Gait
- j. Integumentary Integrity
- k. Joint Integrity and Mobility
- l. Mental Functions
- m. Mobility (including Locomotion)
- n. Motor Function
- o. Muscle Performance (including Strength, Power, Endurance, and Length)
- p. Neuromotor Development and Sensory Processing
- q. Pain
- r. Posture
- s. Range of Motion
- t. Reflex Integrity
- u. Sensory Integrity
- v. Skeletal Integrity
- w. Ventilation and Respiration or Gas Exchange

7D20 Evaluate data from the examination (history, health record, systems review, and tests and measures) to make clinical judgments.

7D21 Use the International Classification of Function (ICF) to describe a patient's/client's impairments, activity and participation limitations.

7D22 Determine a diagnosis that guides future patient/client management.

Prognosis and Plan of Care

7D23 Determine patient/client goals and expected outcomes within available resources (including applicable payment sources) and specify expected length of time to achieve the goals and outcomes.

7D24 Establish a safe and effective plan of care in collaboration with appropriate stakeholders, including patients/clients, family members, payors, other professionals and other appropriate individuals.

7D25 Determine those components of the plan of care that may, or may not, be directed to the physical therapist assistant (PTA) based on (a) the needs of the patient/client, (b) the role, education, and training of the PTA, (c) competence of the individual PTA, (d) jurisdictional law, (e) practice guidelines policies, and (f) facility policies.

7D26 Create a discontinuation of episode of care plan that optimizes success for the patient in moving along the continuum of care.

Intervention³

7D27 Competently perform physical therapy interventions to achieve patient/client goals and outcomes. Interventions include:

- a. Airway Clearance Techniques
- b. Assistive Technology: Prescription, Application, and, as appropriate, Fabrication or Modification
- c. Biophysical Agents

³ **Interventions:** This list is adapted from the *Guide to Physical Therapist Practice (2014)*.

- d. Functional Training in Self-Care and in Domestic, Education, Work, Community, Social, and Civic Life
- e. Integumentary Repair and Protection
- f. Manual Therapy Techniques (including mobilization/manipulation thrust and nonthrust techniques)
- g. Motor Function Training (balance, gait, etc.)
- h. Patient/Client education
- i. Therapeutic Exercise

Management of Care Delivery

- 7D28** Manage the delivery of the plan of care that is consistent with professional obligations, interprofessional collaborations, and administrative policies and procedures of the practice environment.
- 7D29** Delineate, communicate and supervise those areas of the plan of care that will be directed to the PTA.
- 7D30** Monitor and adjust the plan of care in response to patient/client status.
- 7D31** Assess patient outcomes, including the use of appropriate standardized tests and measures that address impairments, functional status and participation.
- 7D32** Complete accurate documentation related to 7D15 - 7D30 that follows guidelines and specific documentation formats required by state practice acts, the practice setting, and other regulatory agencies.
- 7D33** Respond effectively to patient/client and environmental emergencies in one's practice setting.
- 7D34** Provide physical therapy services that address primary, secondary and tertiary prevention, health promotion, and wellness to individuals, groups, and communities.
- 7D35** Provide care through direct access.
- 7D36** Participate in the case management process.

Participation in Health Care Environment

- 7D37** Assess and document safety risks of patients and the healthcare provider and design and implement strategies to improve safety in the healthcare setting as an individual and as a member of the interprofessional healthcare team
- 7D38** Participate in activities for ongoing assessment and improvement of quality services.
- 7D39** Participate in patient-centered interprofessional collaborative practice.
- 7D40** Use health informatics in the health care environment.
- 7D41** Assess health care policies and their potential impact on the healthcare environment and practice.

Practice Management

7D42 Participate in the financial management of the practice setting, including accurate billing and payment for services rendered.

7D43 Participate in practice management, including marketing, public relations, regulatory and legal requirements, risk management, staffing and continuous quality improvement.