

American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties



BOD Y06-21-02-05 [Amended BOD G09-14-02-03; BOD G10-09-07-14; BOD G07-08-02-02; BOD G11-06-06-06; G11-05-27-72; BOD G03-05-19-53; BOD 03-03-18-46; BOD 03-00-34-93] [Policy]

Purpose: Pursuant to Association policy APTA Clinical Specialization Policy, the organizational body that guides the American Physical Therapy Association Clinical Specialization Program is ABPTS and its appointed specialty councils. ABPTS shall provide reasonable uniformity in the level and type of standards adopted as the basis for specialist certification and provides for the participation of consumer representatives in the decision-making process.

Board Members and Terms:

The board shall consist of 12 members: nine individuals appointed for four-year terms, one consumer member appointed for a two-year term, one public member appointed for a two-year term, and one tests and measurements expert member appointed for a two-year term. The members are appointed by ABPTS.

Board Member Qualifications:

Board-certified physical therapists represent each of the approved board certification specialty areas. For these positions experience with specialty council or related activities (e.g., external professional development portfolio reviewer, standard setting participant), Specialization Academy of Content Experts, and/or American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education is required. The tests-and-measurements member is not required to be a physical therapist but must be an individual with expertise in education and evaluation. Public and consumer members shall not be physical therapists.

Responsibilities:

- A. Provide an efficient and credible system for the evaluation, certification, and maintenance of specialist certification of physical therapy specialty areas of practice.
- B. Establish and maintain processes and procedures for the operations of the certification and maintenance processes.
- C. Develop minimum requirements for certification and maintenance of specialist certification to be used across all specialty areas and approve specialty-specific requirements developed by specialty councils.
- D. Approve certification and recertification of qualified candidates for specialist certification.
- E. Serve as the final appeal body for individuals whose application for initial certification or recertification is denied by a specialty council.
- F. Consider requests for reconsideration of certification and recertification decisions.
- G. Provide formal recognition by the association of individuals certified as clinical specialists.
- H. Review nominations and make appointments for ABPTS and specialty council position vacancies.
- I. Provide consultation to and oversee activities of approved specialty councils.
- J. Review petitions for the formation of new board certification specialty areas and make appropriate recommendations to the Board of Directors for consideration by the House of Delegates.

The APTA Board of Directors directs funding for the specialist certification program and serves as an appeal body for certification candidates.

Explanation of Reference Numbers:

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 P06-17-05-04 means that this position can be found in the June 2017 House of Delegates minutes on Page 5 and that it was Vote 4.



P: Position | S: Standard | G: Guideline | Y: Policy | R: Procedure

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