

COMMUNICABLE AND/OR INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND CONDITIONS: RIGHTS OF PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS IN PHYSICAL THERAPY HOD P06-19-74-40 [Position]

Physical therapy providers shall deliver quality, nonjudgmental services in accordance with their knowledge and expertise to all persons who need it, regardless of the nature of the health problem. When providing services to individuals with infectious disease, physical therapy providers shall follow guidance provided by authoritative bodies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants who are known to have communicable diseases or conditions have a right to continue careers in physical therapy in a capacity that poses no identifiable risk to their patients and clients. Moreover, they have an ethical obligation to abstain from activities over which they cannot sustain an acceptable level of risk of transmission to the patient or client. An acceptable level of risk is achieved by adhering to precautions recommended by CDC, OSHA, or other authoritative bodies.

Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants who are at increased risk of acquiring communicable diseases or conditions, and who engage in professional activities with identifiable risks of transmission of those communicable diseases or conditions, shall take appropriate measures to determine their health status.

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