

ESTABLISHING A PHYSICAL THERAPY PARTNERS PROGRAM BOD Y11-03-12-40 [Policy]

A Physical Therapy Partners Program (PT Partners Program) acknowledges and provides access for individuals who are not eligible for APTA membership but who would benefit from access to Association information, products, services, and meetings and in turn, would contribute to the development of the profession through collaborative efforts. These partnerships will result in increased knowledge about physical therapy, the profession, and the Association and, therefore, will provide positive effects on the healthcare delivery system in the United States and abroad.

There are many individuals associated with the physical therapy profession who are not eligible for Association membership because they have not graduated from an academic education program approved by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). These individuals include:

- Faculty teaching in a physical therapy education program,
- International physiotherapists practicing outside the United States,
- Rehabilitation providers (physicians, occupational therapists, speech pathologists, respiratory therapists) who are part of a rehabilitation team in a hospital or other facility,
- Licensed physical therapist assistants who did not graduate from a CAPTE-approved academic education program, and
- Others who can demonstrate an identified connection with the profession and/or Association as determined by APTA or a specific component, including businesses associated with physical therapy.

Provisions: Individuals or businesses eligible to participate in the PT Partners Program do not meet requirements for Association membership. Participation is not open to current APTA members or those who are eligible for individual membership. Partners are precluded from identifying themselves as members of APTA or the component. Participation fees, services and benefits shall be provided consistent with Association policies, positions, guidelines, standards and Code of Ethics.

Physical Therapy Partners Programs are voluntary and can be established at both the national and component levels. Participation is limited to the program in which an individual or business has chosen or been accepted to participate in. (For example, if an individual becomes a component partner, this person does not automatically become a partner of APTA National or any other component.) APTA National will implement a program; each component will choose whether or not to establish a PT Partners Program. Establishing a PT Partners Program will not be mandatory for components. When establishing a PT Partners Program, the National office and each component will determine:

- Criteria to participate in the program
- Partner benefits
- Costs to develop/provide the programs and services
- Fees for program participation
- Criteria for dismissal from the program

Consideration for Physical Therapy Partners benefits and services at the National level include:

- Access to continuing education courses at member rates
- Subscription to PT Bulletin Online
- Access to full-text of the Journal online
- Access to PT Magazine of Physical Therapy online
- Access to some "Members Only" pages on the Web site
- Reduced fees for meeting registrations and publications (not to be lower than member rates)

Consideration for Physical Therapy Partners benefits and services at the component level include:

- Access to component continuing education courses at member rates
- Subscription to component's electronic newsletter and member communications (if available)
- Access to select "Members Only" pages on the component Web site
- Reduced fees for component meeting registrations and publications (not to be lower than member rates)
- Special advertising rates (business partners only)

Components establishing a PT Partners Program should notify APTA's Component Services Department within 60 days of establishment so that APTA can provide a clearinghouse of information for other components that may consider similar programs. Components must provide the following to APTA:

1. Name of the Program
2. Eligibility Requirements
3. Specific information about the program benefits and services
4. Fee structure
5. Material changes as they are made to the program.

(Member Services Department, ext 3395)

Explanation of Reference Numbers:

BOD P00-00-00-00 stands for Board of Directors/month/year/page/vote in the Board of Directors Minutes; the "P" indicates that it is a position (see below). For example, BOD P11-97-06-18 means that this position can be found in the November 1997 Board of Directors minutes on Page 6 and that it was Vote 18.

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