

# **State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board**

## **Principles of Practice**

*March 2015*



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY,  
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS  
AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING*

## **State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board Principles of Practice March 2015**

This document serves two purposes. It will identify what is expected from a professional therapist and it will also educate the consumer in what they can expect from their therapist.

### **Physical Therapists, Physical Therapy Assistants, Occupational Therapists, and Occupational Therapy Assistants shall:**

#### **Principle 1: Patient/Client Safety and Well Being:**

1. Adhere to the respective national professional core values and ethical standards.
2. Act in the best interest of the patient/client.
3. Provide services within practitioner's level of competence as demonstrated by education, training and professional experience.
4. Provide supervision for support personnel.
5. Provide for the continuity of service when transitioning care.

#### **Principle 2: Right of individuals to self-determination:**

1. Respect the patient/client right to informed consent, right to refuse services, and keep informed of the process in meeting goals specific to the plan of intervention. If the patients/clients cannot give consent, the therapist must be sure that consent has been obtained from the person who is legally responsible for the patient/client.
2. Establish a collaborative relationship with recipients of services including families, significant others and caregivers throughout the intervention process, including setting goals and priorities.
3. Maintain confidentiality of all verbal, written, electronic, augmentative and non-verbal communication disclosing such only when allowed or required by law.

#### **Principle 3: Provide services in a fair and equitable manner:**

1. Advocate for just and fair treatment for all patients, clients, employees and colleagues by encouraging employers and colleagues to abide by the ethical standards set forth by their national professions.
2. Act in a respectful manner toward each person regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, religion, ethnicity, social or economic status, sexual orientation, health condition, or disability.

#### **Principle 4: Provide comprehensive, accurate, and objective information about services:**

1. Provide accurate and relevant information to the public and recipients about service, credentials, experience, education and training.
2. Record and report in an accurate and timely manner in accordance with applicable regulations, all information related to professional activities, services, and patient care.

**Principle 5: Treat colleagues and other professionals with respect, fairness, discretion, and integrity:**

1. Respect the traditions, practices, competencies and responsibilities of physical therapy, occupational therapy and other professions, as well as those of the institutions and agencies that constitute the working environment.
2. Provide appropriate direction to, and communication with therapy staff and personnel.

**Principle 6: Comply with institutional rules, local, state, federal, and international laws applicable to the profession:**

1. Comply with professionally applicable institutional, local, state, federal and international laws and regulations.
2. Report to the Board any unprofessional, incompetent, or illegal behavior of a physical therapist or occupational therapist or physical therapist assistant or occupational therapy assistant in practice, education or research.
3. Cooperate with an investigation by the State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board. Cooperation includes responding fully and promptly to any questions raised by the Board and providing copies of the medical records and other documents requested by the Board.