

# occupationalhealth

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SIG NEWSLETTER

#### Greeting OHSIG Members!

#### Executive Summary OHSIG Practice Analysis

We hope you all had a chance to read the Executive Summary of the Practice Analysis that was included in Vol. 20, No. 3, 2008 of OPTP. This information will be critical in developing curriculum specific to Occupational Health Physical Therapy.

#### Revised FCE Guidelines

The Revised FCE Guidelines were presented to the Orthopaedic Section Board of Directors Aug 13, 2008. Margot made a motion to the Ortho BOD on behalf of OHSIG BOD, the FCE Task Force, and the FCE CSM Working Group to approve the Revised FCE Guidelines as is. The motion was passed.

Lisa Culver, PT, DPT, MBA, Associate Director, Department of Practice for APTA, indicated that the Revised FCE Guideline document will next be reviewed by the Board Review Committee, in concert with agreement of the full Board to rescind the current FCE Guidelines.

Practice plans to submit a recommendation at the September Board Conference call to rescind **GUIDELINES: OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PHYSICAL THERAPY: EVALUATING FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY BOD G11-01-07-11** (Program 32) contingent on the approval of the Revised FCE Guidelines submitted by Occupational Health SIG of the Orthopaedic Section. The document will be posted on the APTA website so that all APTA members would have access to this Section Guideline.

Again, many many thanks to all of those who participated in this initiative. It was truly a group effort! In addition, a special thank you to Rick Wickstrom, Gwen Simmons, Susan Isernhagen, and Margot Miller for getting the Guideline into its final format.

#### CSM Las Vegas Feb 8-12, 2009

It's not too early to make your plans to attend CSM Las Vegas. Below is info on Occupational Health Programming.

#### PRECON: Vision 2020 Actualized in the Onsite Occupational Health Setting

This seminar teaches physical therapists advanced clinical methods for determining movement impairment diagnoses and recognizing co-morbid medical conditions prior to their escalation into costly pathological conditions. Within the context of a collaborative occupational health paradigm, advanced patient examination, medical screening, and

evaluation competence will facilitate physical therapists clinical judgments regarding when to intervene, and when to refer and how to best implement evidence-based guidelines and therapeutic measures. The program will focus on skills necessary to enhance physical therapists' labeling of differential classifications of movement impairments and functions as essential to early and effective interventions to prevent impairments from progressing to a recordable pathology.

#### Beyond the Hoyer Lift: New Technology in Equipment for Patient Handling

This program will introduce a variety of the newer options for patient handling in therapy. Strategies for selecting equipment and interacting with vendors will also be presented. Small group case studies of patients/clients in a variety of settings will be used to help participants synthesize consideration across the care spectrum.

Advances in technology have impacted all aspects of health care, including options for the way therapists provide hands-on care to patients. New equipment can be used to assist with tasks such as transferring, repositioning, and ambulating patients. The use of equipment can promote the complementary goals of improving safety for both patient and caregiver, as well as improve the potential for rehabilitation.

#### Body Mechanics Is Not Enough: The Case for Safe Patient Handling (co sponsored with Acute Care Section)

Physical therapists are not immune to work-related musculoskeletal disorders or injuries. There is a long-standing belief, however, that adherence to "good body mechanics" will protect us from injury over the course of a working career, despite evidence to the contrary. The nursing profession has already begun a paradigm shift away from manual patient handling to the integration of new technology to improve both caregiver and patient safety; for example, schools of nursing have begun to teach new ways of approaching patient handling.

This program will review the evidence, discuss some of the myths about patient handling, describe current trends in safe patient handling, and suggest the impact on the physical therapy profession, including education.

More information will follow. We hope to see you there!

*Sincerely,*

*Margot Miller, PT  
OHSIG President*