

Occupational Health

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

AUGUST 2009 OHSIG BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

Greetings OHSIG members! We wanted to update you on activities taking place on your behalf. The OHSIG Board met in Chicago for 2 days of strategic planning. Those who attended included:

- Dee Daley, VP/Ed Chair
- Drew Bossen, Practice Chair
- Rick Wickstrom, Membership Chair and Advisor
- Kathy Rockefeller, Research Chair
- John Lowe, Nominating Committee Chair
- Margot Miller, Immediate Past President/Advisor

Topic areas included the following:

- 1) Updated OHSIG Mission, Vision, and 3-year Strategic Plan. Once approved, the Strategic Plan will be posted on OHSIG/Ortho Web site for members to view.
- 2) Reviewed the working draft of the Work Rehab Guidelines and made final edits. Once approved, these will be posted on APTA's Web site, under Occupational Health Guidelines. A timeline for revising the remaining guidelines is as follows: Ergonomic and Legal guidelines 2010; Acute Care and Role of the PT in Occ Health 2010/2011.
- 3) Discussed establishing liaison relationships with key contacts at the State level for payment policy and practice issues. This will assist dissemination of current information to OHSIG members. Our goal is to establish liaisons by November 2009.
- 4) Promote evidence-based practice in occupational health by disseminating peer reviewed literature to OHSIG members via citation email blast. Our goal is to do this quarterly.
- 5) Discussed improved capability for "Finding a PT" who is working in the area of Occupational Health and an OHSIG member.
- 6) Discussed establishing liaison relationships with external stakeholder groups for exchange of information.
- 7) Identify "special projects" where OHSIG members have an opportunity to participate in areas of their expertise and where a finite timeline is identified. This will promote member involvement without long duration commitment.
- 8) Discussed options for moving forward with specialty/certification designation in occupational health physical therapy.

Seeking Authors for OPTP

We are seeking authors for OPTP. If you would like to submit an article on behalf of Occupational Health, please let us know. Case studies would be an excellent way to share your expertise/experience with others.

A Sneak Peak at Occupational Health CSM Programming in San Diego CA, Feb 17-20, 2010

Course Title: **Functional Testing Update: Work Injury Management and Prevention**

Functional testing for work injury management and prevention in clinical and employer based situations has continued to grow and gain acceptance as a standard practice in many physical therapy clinics. This program will look at best practices and legal considerations related to functional tests such as functional capacity evaluations, fit for duty tests, and post offer prework screens. Whether you consult with companies or see employee clients in your PT practice, you will need to understand the importance of keeping up to date on the latest standards of practice and legal developments which can impact your services.

Although there are a range of terms and philosophies related to functional capacity evaluations (FCEs), one of the most used documents by internal and external stakeholders in occupational health has been the APTA Occupational Health Physical Therapy Guideline on Functional Capacity Evaluation. New guidelines reflect updated practice expectations, definitions, recommended test components, guidelines for administration, and evaluative/ outcome expectations of therapist performance. This program will also review the results of an international Delphi study on consensus language related to functional capacity evaluation and potential impact on physical therapist practice, including ICF terminology.

This program will also discuss issues therapists should be aware of when marketing, designing, testing, and implementing functional testing programs (including "prework screens"). Legal risks and challenges for therapists can be costly and you should know how to minimize risks. Case studies will demonstrate the importance understanding legal risks, illustrating real world positive outcomes and consequences of various functional testing programs.

Look for this educational program and the OHSIG Business Meeting in CSM programming announcements. Our business meeting will include updates on occupational health guidelines, strategic planning, updates on Occupational Information Development Advisory Panel for Social Security/plans to replace the Dictionary of Occupational Titles and other "Hot Topics."

Submitted by Bill O'Grady, OHSIG Interim President
Dee Daley, VP/Ed Chair
Margot Miller, Advisor