

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY SUMMER TO ALL!

The OHSIG continues work on behalf of our members. Here are a few important updates for you.

PAYMENT POLICY LIAISONS REQUESTED

A letter was sent to State Chapter Presidents and Executive Directors asking that a liaison be identified to work with the OHSIG Practice and Payment Policy Committee. Rick Wickstrom, Committee Chair stated that having liaisons "will help us share relevant information with physical therapists, payers, regulators and other occupational health professionals as a public relations strategy to promote professionalism of physical therapists. We hope that creating state-specific payment policy liaisons for the Occupational Health Special Interest Group will encourage greater networking on matters that impact practice and reimbursement for our specialty, thus reinforcing the benefits of belonging to APTA and the Orthopaedic Section's Occupational Health Special Interest Group."

OHSIG and the Practice and Payment Policy Committee are working with Karen Jost, Associate Director Payment Policy & Advocacy, APTA, on a Workers' Compensation Audio conference. The audio conference is scheduled for Aug 19th. Watch for more details on this.

If you are interested in more information on becoming a liaison, contact Rick Wickstrom at rick@workability.us.

MAY MEMBER EMAIL BLAST

Our thanks to Sandy Goldstein, OHSIG Communication Chair, for coordinating the Email Blast to OHSIG members in May. If you did not receive the email blast, contact Sandy at sanfordgoldstein@hotmail.com.

PETITION FOR SPECIALIZATION IN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PT

The petition is nearly completed. Dee Daley leads the efforts along with the entire BOD. We are working on sample test questions. We will keep you posted on the submission and progress of the petition.

DEFENSIBLE DOCUMENTATION

John Lowe and his committee are working with APTA on Defensible Documentation. The information is anticipated to be part of the APTA Web site late summer/early fall, similar to other focused practice materials already posted.

GUIDELINES UPDATE

Work Rehabilitation Guideline revision is in process, and should be available soon. Please watch for it. Other guidelines will be revised in 2010/2011, including Ergonomic and Legal.

APTA RELEASES NEW GUIDELINES: EVALUATING FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY

The following was released by APTA. We are very proud of the work that went into this endeavor!

The American Physical Therapy Association released a major update of guidelines for Functional Capacity Evaluation (FCE) services by physical therapy professionals. An FCE is a detailed examination and evaluation that objectively measures an evaluatee's current level of function, primarily within the context of the demands of competitive employment, activities of daily living, or leisure activities. Measurements of function from an FCE are used to make return-to-work/activity decisions, disability determinations, or to design rehabilitation plans. This supports tertiary prevention by preventing needless disability or activity restrictions.

The FCE Guidelines update was initiated by the APTA Occupational Health Special Interest Group by convening a task force of physical therapy professionals at the 2008 APTA Combined Sections Meeting. Task force members had FCE expertise that included most of the recognized FCE systems in the United States and Canada. Their challenge was to promote greater excellence, accountability, and consistency of functional capacity evaluations. A summary of key revisions includes:

- Integrating FCE guidelines within the context of language and framework of The International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health.
- Distinguishing critical components and location requirements for 2 different types of functional capacity evaluations--General Purpose vs. Job-Specific.
- Incorporating definitions of conditions and ratings to match worker functional capacities and job demands in a worker job-match taxonomy.
- Clarifying admission criteria for functional capacity testing in early intervention versus chronic applications.
- Adopting a clear position against inappropriate delegation of FCE activities to support staff that cannot perform PT examination/evaluation procedures within their scope of work.
- Establishing duration guidance for appropriate use of professional time.

DELPHI STUDY ON FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY

Members of the FCE Task Force were asked to become part of a Delphi Study on functional capacity. Members of the Netherland's study group include: Michiel F Reneman, PhD; Harriet Wittink, PhD; Cees P van der Schans, PhD; Jan HB Geertzen, PhD.

Please watch for updates on this important study.

OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL (OIDAP)

Rick Wickstrom and Margot Miller have participated in conference calls for OIDAP. OID will replace the Dictionary of Occupational Titles. Our input has been in the area of physical demands. More information will follow.

OHSIG, APTA, and ACOEM - Collaboration ACOEM Practice Guidelines

OHSIG will have the opportunity to review the ACOEM Practice Guideline chapters as a part of ACOEM's comprehensive review of their clinical practice guidelines. OHSIG will participate in reviewing the following Foundation Chapters:

- Prevention
- General Approach to Initial Assessment and Documentation
- Initial Approaches to Treatment
- Work-Relatedness
- Cornerstones of Disability Prevention and Management
- Independent Medical Examinations

OHSIG involvement in initiatives such as this through ACOEM and APTA are important to assure best clinical practice guidelines are in place. Our input can make a difference! Sandy Goldstein, OHSIG Communication Chair, is reviewing the IME chapter. Other reviewers to be named as chapters become due.

NEED AUTHORS

If you are interested in submitting an article for OPTP, please let us know. You can talk with any one of the OHSIG BOD members.

MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

Our goal for this year is to increase the opportunity for member involvement in OHSIG activities. We believe we are stronger through member involvement. We look forward to working with more of you this coming year!

Professional Regards,
Margot Miller PT
OHSIG President