

# WV BOPT - BOARD NEWS

Fall/Winter 2005

## **Dear Physical Therapists and Assistants:**

(By: Sally B. Oxley PT, CHT, CMDT Board Chair)



The mood at the Annual Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy this year in Austin, Texas was one of generosity and reaching out to displaced PT's and PTA's in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. The Federation voted to contribute \$25,000.00 to the American Red Cross for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. The funds, if possible, will be earmarked for improving access to health services for those affected by the hurricane. The Louisiana Board encouraged anyone wanting to post job openings to do that through the Web Site of the Louisiana Board [www.laptboard.org](http://www.laptboard.org) or the Louisiana Physical Therapy Association at [www.lpta.org](http://www.lpta.org) In Louisiana alone it is felt that the jobs of approximately 780 licensees may have been impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

Regards,

Sally Oxley, Board Chair

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## **CLARIFICATION REGARDING EMG'S**

In the Spring/Summer 2005 Board News Letter, a Question and Answer appeared regarding EMG's and who may perform them and under what circumstances.



Generally speaking, the Question and Answer did address the issue with the exception of those persons who have had specific training/education in performing EMG's and/or who are performing them with correct, legal supervision. Physical Therapists can perform EMG's if it is done under the supervision of a physician electromyographer and electrodiagnostician.

Please refer to the "Physical Therapy Law for the State of WV" on Page 1, 30-20-2.(f) which states:

"Physical Therapy" means the therapeutic treatment of any person by the use of massage, mechanical stimulation, heat, cold, light, air, water, electricity, sound and exercise, including mobilization of the joints and training in functional activities, for the purpose of correcting or alleviating any physical or mental disability, and the performance of neuro-muscular skeletal tests and measurements as an aid in diagnosis, evaluation or determination of the existence of and the extent of any body malfunction: Provided, that electromyography examination and electrodiagnostic studies other than the determination of chronaxia and strength duration curves shall not be performed except under the supervision of a physician electromyographer and electrodiagnostician..."



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**ETHICS AND VALUES IN PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTICE**

(By: Elizabeth Meyer PT)

It is intensely important that we as practicing Physical Therapists consistently practice the ethics and values of our profession providing the very best possible care to our patients. Ethics are just as important as Rules and Regulations. It is not just about compliance to external Rules; but instead it is about adherence to internal values. Ethics matter to us as practicing Physical Therapists in order to survive in the world. As Physical Therapists, cultivating an awareness of sound ethical behavior is important.

**Not Negotiable**

The framework for Ethics is clarified and the public demands ethical behavior. We need to be willing to discuss the ethical gaps that may not be covered by the Law and then learn about practical tools that can be used in dealing with difficult dilemmas. We should be willing to explore the professional values that could be useful in determining changes necessary to our Law.

The ethical practice of Physical Therapy is important to the care which we provide to our patients and the professional relationship which we develop with them and our colleagues. We need to continue to be vigilant and responsible with our patients and be aware of the consequences and/or repercussions of unethical practice. It is important to our professional reputations that we carefully ponder all of our professional actions and decisions and their potential outcome. We need to follow the highest principles in our everyday practice decisions and be true to the values of our profession.

**CODE OF ETHICS FOR PHYSICAL THERAPISTS**

(Reprinted from the PT Bulletin of the APTA - May 11, 1994)

**Preamble**

This Code of Ethics sets forth ethical principles for the Physical Therapy profession. Members of this profession are responsible for maintaining and promoting ethical practice. This Code of Ethics, adopted by the American Physical Therapy Association shall be binding on Physical Therapists who are members of the Association.

**Principle 1**

Physical Therapists respect the rights and dignity of all individuals.

**Principle 2**

Physical Therapists comply with the laws and regulations governing the practice of Physical Therapy.

**Principle 3**

Physical Therapists accept responsibility for the exercise of sound judgement.

**Principle 4**

Physical Therapists maintain and promote high standards for Physical Therapy practice, education and research.

**CODE OF ETHICS FOR PHYSICAL THERAPISTS (CONT.)**

**Principle 5**

Physical Therapists seek remuneration for their services that is deserved and reasonable.

**Principle 6**

Physical Therapists provide accurate information to the consumer about the profession and about those services they provide.

**Principle 7**

Physical Therapists accept the responsibility to protect the public and the profession from unethical, incompetent, or illegal acts.

**Principle 8**

Physical Therapists participate in efforts to address the health needs of the public.

(Adopted by the House of Delegates June 1981)

**STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT FOR THE  
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT**

**Preamble**

Physical Therapist Assistants are responsible for maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct. These Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant shall be binding on Physical Therapist Assistants who are affiliate members of the Association.

**Standard 1**

Physical Therapist Assistants provide services under the supervision of a Physical Therapist.

**Standard 2**

Physical Therapist Assistants respect the rights and dignity of all individuals.

**Standard 3**

Physical Therapist Assistants maintain and promote high standards in the provision of services giving the welfare of the patients their highest regard.

**Standard 4**

Physical Therapist Assistants provide services within the limits of the law.

**Standard 5**

Physical Therapist Assistants make those judgements that are commensurate with their qualifications as Physical Therapist Assistants.

**Standard 6**

Physical Therapist Assistants accept the responsibility to protect the public and the profession from unethical, incompetent, or illegal acts.

(Adopted by the House of Delegates June 1982)

**THE VALUE OF TIME**

Imagine if you will that there is a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,400. It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening it deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out every cent, of course! Each of us has such a bank. Its name is **TIME**. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever amount of this time you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdrafts. Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours. There is no going back. There is no going against the "tomorrow". You must live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness, relationships, and success! The clock is running. Make the most of today.

- \* To realize the value of **ONE YEAR**, ask a student who failed a grade.
- \* To realize the value of **ONE MONTH**, ask a mother who gave birth to a premature baby.
- \* To realize the value of **ONE WEEK**, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.
- \* To realize the value of **ONE HOUR**, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.
- \* To realize the value of **ONE MINUTE**, ask a person who missed a plane.
- \* To realize the value of **ONE SECOND**, ask a person who just avoided an accident.
- \* To realize the value of **ONE MILLISECOND**, ask the person who won a silver medal in the Olympics.

**Remember this:**

**Yesterday is history; Tomorrow is a mystery; Today is a gift; that is why it is called  
The Present.**

**May your New Year be one of Time Well Spent.**

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