

Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct physical therapists in Ukraine

Introduction

The Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct created by the Ukrainian Association of Physical Therapy declares the principles that all physical therapists in Ukraine must adhere to in order to ensure the safety and promote the wellbeing of people living with disability in Ukraine.

The Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct identifies the professional behaviours expected of physical therapists in Ukraine when carrying out professional activities.

This document has foundational ethical principles:

1. Fairness in how physical therapy services are delivered
2. Avoiding harm
3. Promoting what is best for the individual
4. Respect for individual autonomy

The document provides advice on different ways of solving problems, dealing with ethical issues, and making appropriate professional decisions. The Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct created by the Ukrainian Association of Physical Therapy was developed on the basis of the international ethical principles and standards of physical therapy practice as defined by the World Confederation of Physical Therapy (WCPT).

Terminology:

Patient – refers to an individual accepted for physical therapy. This may be substituted with the term “client” where appropriate.

Physical Therapy members – a professional who is members of the Ukrainian Association of Physical Therapy and was be recognize or equated as physical therapist.

Physical therapist – is an autonomous health professional who engaged in the developing, maintaining or restoring motor function and movement and functional capacity of a person throughout the lifespan, successfully completed an accredited educational program for entry level physical therapists, acquired minimal competencies for physical therapist, using evidence-based practice and safely applies his professional activity within the scope of practice and the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.

1. Physical therapists respect the rights and dignity of all individuals

- 1.1. All persons who seek the services of physical therapists have the right to service regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, religion or political beliefs;
- 1.2. The patient has the right for respect of their cultural values;
- 1.3. The patient has the right to privacy;
- 1.4. The patient has the right to confidentiality;
- 1.5. The patient has the right to be provided with adequate information, sufficient for informed consent or refusal regarding the participation in a specific or alternative service;
- 1.6. The patient has the right to be protected from excessive provision of services;
- 1.7. The patient has the right to be referred to other qualified professionals;
- 1.8. The patient has the right to file a complaint and receive a response to their complaint;
- 1.9. Physical therapists demonstrate professional behaviour that excludes sexual misconduct;
- 1.10. Physical therapists have the right to expect co-operation from their colleagues;
- 1.11. Physical therapists shall comply with the legislation of Ukraine when dealing with suppliers, manufacturers and other agents.

2. Physical therapists comply with the laws and regulations governing the practice in the Ukraine

- 2.1. Physical therapists have a full understanding of the laws and regulations governing the practice;
- 2.2. Physical therapists have the right to refuse to treat or otherwise intervene when in their opinion the service is not in the best interests of the patient.

3. Physical therapists accept responsibility for the exercise of sound judgement

- 3.1. Physical therapists have the right to professional autonomy;
- 3.2. Physical therapists make independent judgements in the provision of services for which they have knowledge and skills and for which they can be held accountable;
- 3.3. Physical therapists undertake appropriate examination for the development of a diagnosis for each patient;
- 3.4. In light of the diagnosis and other relevant information about the patient, especially the intervention goals, physical therapists plan and implement the rehabilitation program;
- 3.5. When the goals have been achieved or further benefits can no longer be obtained, the physical therapist shall inform the patient;
- 3.6. When the diagnosis is not clear or the required individualised rehabilitation is beyond the capacity of the physical therapist, the patient must be informed and appropriately provided with a timely referral to another qualified person;
- 3.7. Physical therapists shall not delegate any activity that requires the unique skills, knowledge and judgments of the physical therapists;

- 3.8. If the individualised rehabilitation or a continuation of the program determined by the referring medical practitioner, is not in accord with the judgement of the physical therapist, the medical practitioner should be consulted in order to:
 - compile an appropriate plan of rehabilitation activities;
 - offer referral to another qualified professional, whose services will be in the best interests of the patients.
- 3.9. Physical therapists take responsibility for maintaining their own health and wellbeing.

4. Physical therapists provide honest, safe, competent and accountable professional services

- 4.1. Physical therapists provide patient centered services that are clinically justified and based on the best available evidence;
- 4.2. Physical therapists ensure the patient understands the nature of the service being provided, especially the anticipated costs, both time and financial;
- 4.3. Physical therapists maintain adequate records to allow for the effective evaluation of their services and practice;
- 4.4. Physical therapists shall maintain adequate data to facilitate service performance measurement and shall make that data available to other agents as required by mutual agreement;
- 4.5. Physical therapists do not disclose any information about a patient to a third party without the patient's permission, unless such disclosure is required by law;
- 4.6. The ethical principles governing the practice of the Physical therapist shall take precedence over any business or employment practice, where such conflict arises the Physical Therapist shall attempt to rectify the matter, seeking the assistance of the Ukrainian Association of Physical Therapy.

5. Physical Therapists are committed to providing high-quality services to their patients

- 5.1. Physical therapists shall be aware of the accepted standards of practice and undertake activities which measure their conformity;
- 5.2. Physical therapists undertake a continuous, planned, personal development program designed to maintain and enhance professional knowledge and skills;
- 5.3. Physical therapists participate in peer review and other forms of practice evaluation, the results of which shall not be disclosed to another party without the permission of the physical therapist;
- 5.4. Physical therapists shall support quality education in academic and clinical settings;
- 5.5. Physical therapists shall support research that contributes to improved patient services;
- 5.6. Physical therapists engaged in research shall abide by the current rules and policies applying to the conduct of research on human subjects shall ensure:
 - the consent of individuals involved in the study;
 - confidentiality of the individuals involved in the study;
 - safety and well-being of the individuals involved in the study;

- absence of fraud and plagiarism;
 - full disclosure of support;
 - appropriate acknowledgement of assistance;
 - that any breaches of the rules and violations are reported to the appropriate authorities.
- 5.7. Physical therapists shall share the results of their research freely, publishing them (according to existing requirements) in journals, booklets etc., and reporting at conferences;
- 5.8. Physical therapists in the role of an employer shall:
- ensure that all employees are properly and duly qualified;
 - apply current management principles and practices to the conduct of the service, with particular attention to appropriate standards of personnel management.
- 6. Physical therapists have the right to a just and fair level of remuneration for their services**
- 6.1. Physical therapist should ensure payment for their services;
- 6.2. Physical therapists should not apply undue intervention for their own benefit.
- 7. Physical therapists communicate effectively to provide accurate information to their patients, colleagues, health professionals, other agencies, and the community**
- 7.1. Physical therapists shall participate in public education programs, providing information about the profession;
- 7.2. Physical therapists have a duty to inform the public and other health professionals about the nature of their services, so individuals are able to make an informed decision about the use of the service;
- 7.3. Physical therapists may advertise their services with truthful, accurate and relevant information. They must not knowingly provide false, unfair or misleading information;
- 7.4. Physical therapists shall claim only those titles which correctly describe their professional status;
- 7.5. Physical therapists must not use any advertising materials or methods that could bring the profession into disrepute.
- 8. Physical therapists contribute to the planning and development of services which address the health needs of the community**
- 8.1. Physical therapists have a duty and an obligation to participate in planning services designed to provide optimum community health services;
- 8.2. Physical therapists are obliged to work toward achieving justice in the provision of health services for all people.

Approval and review
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