



PHYSICAL THERAPY

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides Physical Therapy services to Veterans and Service members. Physical Therapists (PTs) are health care professionals who diagnose and treat individuals with medical problems or other health-related conditions that limit their abilities to move and perform functional activities in their daily lives.

PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTICE

Physical therapists diagnose and manage movement dysfunction, and enhance physical and functional abilities for movement disorders related to impairments of aging, and the musculoskeletal, cardiovascular/pulmonary, neuromuscular and integumentary (skin) systems. PTs restore, maintain, and promote optimal physical function, wellness, fitness and quality of life as it relates to movement and health. Physical therapy is a safe and effective alternative to opioids for the long-term treatment of chronic pain. PTs also prevent the onset, symptoms and progression of impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities that may result from diseases, disorders, conditions or injuries. PTs examine each individual and develop a specific treatment plan. Evidence-based services are used to decrease disability, reduce pain, improve function and independence, prevent illness, promote wellness and restore quality of life to the Veterans and Service members they serve.

CREDENTIALS

Physical therapists are licensed health care professionals. Qualification for licensure includes passing the National Physical Therapy Exam, administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. Another important qualification for licensure is graduation from physical therapy education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) or a program that is deemed substantially equivalent to a CAPTE-accredited program. All Physical Therapists currently graduate with a Doctoral degree.

POPULATION SERVED

Physical therapists practice across the continuum of care, providing services in inpatient settings, home health, outpatient clinics and tele-rehabilitation.

Physical Therapists are key members of collaborative teams, which exist in the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation systems of care models.

Services may include:

Pain Management , Manual Intervention and Joint Mobilization, Treatment of Musculoskeletal Disorders, Strength and Conditioning/Therapeutic Exercise, Management of Neurological Diseases and Stroke Recovery, Balance Training/Fall Prevention, Injury Prevention, Weight Management Program for Veterans (MOVE!), Wound Care, Women's Health, Tele-Rehabilitation, Home Evaluations, Adaptive Mobility Clinics