

DEVELOPING WOMEN'S HEALTH CURRICULUM IN DPT PROGRAMS

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PURPOSE: The purpose of this women's health professional development project was to create an educator toolkit for Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) and Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) programs, in order to provide direction and a universal guide to structure women's health curriculum within a program.

DESCRIPTION: This project started with a needs assessment to determine the prevalence of women's health in DPT programs. Next, two surveys were sent out to various DPT and PTA programs in the Northern Plains. The information gathered, by survey and needs assessment, assisted with development of the educator toolkit. This educator toolkit is a resource of information to help guide new educators and current women's health educators on how to develop or modify curricular content for women's health, within their program. The toolkit includes an introduction into women's health, important issues for academia, current guidelines from the APTA Section on Women's Health, entry-level curricular guidelines, current available resources, future development, frequently asked questions, and common misconceptions.

OBSERVATIONS: This educator toolkit will be implemented by submission to the Minnesota Physical Therapy Association and the Section on Women's Health, to accompany the already established guidelines. The idea is that it will provide further direction for DPT educators when selecting curriculum content.

CONCLUSION: The educator toolkit created for this professional development project will be utilized in the field of physical therapy to help DPT and PTA programs develop their women's health curriculum to ensure that all relevant and important topics are covered.

IMPLICATIONS: Women's health is a topic every physical therapist will encounter while working in this profession. A current barrier for programs is not having enough time to implement all content. This educator toolkit provides further direction and guidance when incorporating women's health into their curriculum, by providing entry level topics, resources, and guidelines to follow.