

PROFESSIONALISM IN PHYSICAL THERAPY: THE ROLE OF AN OATH FOR PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

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Abstract (Limited to 300 Words):

PURPOSE: Over the past decade, professionalism has become a common topic of discussion within physical therapy. Academic programs, with the conversion to the entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree, have increasingly emphasized the importance of professionalism in their curricula. The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) also developed documents related to professionalism, such as the core values of the profession, and devoted a webpage related to professionalism on its website. Professionalism can be defined as consistently demonstrating adherence to core values, wisely applying principles of practice, and effectively working with other professionals to achieve optimal health and wellness outcomes for individuals or communities. Similar to other professions, a physical therapist's embodiment of professionalism is evident daily in one's behaviors and conduct. In the field of medicine, patients and clients are aware of the Hippocratic Oath and view it as an example of expected behaviors and conduct physicians should exhibit. Because of the increased emphasis on entry-level physical therapist professionalism, a public expression of our commitment to the well-being of patients and clients, our adherence to high standards, and our collaboration with other providers is warranted to advance the public's view of our professionalism.

CONCLUSION: In 2004, the Education Section of the APTA first endorsed an oath for physical therapists. This poster examines literature related to professionalism and the role an oath fulfills in promoting professionalism.