

PT Month Keeping Up With Changing Times

The following information may or may not be appropriate to your clinical setting. Please review the information and determine the appropriateness of the content prior to sharing with your staff.

Eligible for LMS Credit: Yes

As we celebrate PT month, we would like to honor each and every one of our dedicated, highly trained Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants.

The evolution of our profession in the United States developed primarily during World War I between 1914 and 1917. This was in response to the overwhelming need for treatment of war injuries. Reed College and Walter Reed Hospital proudly graduated the first therapists into the profession. During the years between 1920 and 1930 as poliomyelitis ravaged the United States, again, our profession grew. In 1921 with Mary McMillan leading as our first president, the American Women's Physical Therapeutic Association was formed. In 1922, our organization was changed to American Physiotherapy Association in 1922 to reflect the inclusion of qualified men. World War II, along with advances in medicine, spiked continued growth in the field of physical therapy. By 1947, our professional organization changed its name to what we know it to be today – The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA).

Physical Therapy continued to evolve and develop. Educational and training programs developed along with this dynamic evolution. A hallmark event occurred in 1967 with an amendment to the Social Security Act. For the first time, we were recognized by the Social Security organization as a healthcare provider for reimbursement.

Medical advances have increased survival rates of disease and injury resulting in an increased, diverse population that requires a broader range of skilled physical therapy interventions. In order to meet these challenges, there have been significant changes in regulations, reimbursement, and care settings.

We as therapists have a responsibility to expand our therapeutic approaches to meet each patient's individual needs. Short stay residents will require a focus on rapid recovery of function to allow them to finish their care in the most appropriate environment. Home health or outpatient clients will require a broader treatment approach to support continued recovery. Long term residents will require a more in depth and detailed approach to address the subtle changes that occur with chronic conditions or aging.

Patients at all levels will require additional focus beyond recovery to maintain health and function after discharge. For some, this may include frequent interventions to slow the progression of either disease or issues associated with aging that impact mobility, health, and overall wellness.

Fast Facts Friday



Research over the years has given us a vast library of evidence based testing and treatment approaches to choose from, to more effectively address our patient's needs. Evidence based identification of needs, determination of frequency and duration, and selection of treatment approaches all result in the best outcomes for our patients.

Our company is proud of the Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants. Their care delivery, compassionate patient approach, and adherence to professional and regulatory standards ensure that we maximize impact to our many deserving patients.

We are fortunate to have extensive resources to support our efforts. The following resources are available to all therapists:

- Fast Fact Fridays
 - Knect > Kindred Rehab Services > Clinical Services > Skilled Nursing > (scroll mid way down page to FFF)
- Clinical Programs
 - Knect > Kindred Rehab Services > RehabCare Clinical Programs (Steady Steps, Free to Move, Steady Rhythms, Forward Thinking, Synapse Neuro, and Other Clinical Focus Areas)
- RediLearn
 - RediLearn > My Programs > Required Trainings
 - RediLearn > My Doc Box > Clinical Trainings or FFF 2016
 - Additional, new trainings to be added soon!
- Documentation
 - Knect > Kindred Rehab Services > Clinical Services > Skilled Nursing > Documentation
- Professional Organizations

We deliver outcomes, because outcomes do matter. **So Thank You!!!**

To all our highly trained PTs and PTAs, leading our many clinical programs, we say thank you. Happy PT Month!