

# Code of Ethics for Physical Therapists

## A. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The need for physical therapy is universal. The service of the physical therapist, is therefore, unrestricted by considerations of nationality, race, creed, color, politics or social status.
2. Each Physical Therapist shall act as representative of the whole profession and as such, conduct himself with honor and integrity.
3. A Physical Therapist must serve the patient's interest with the greatest solicitude, giving always his best skills and knowledge.
4. A Physical Therapist must safeguard the legitimate interest, reputation and dignity of his colleagues.

## B. DUTIES TOWARD THE PATIENT

1. A Physical Therapist must attend to his patients faithfully and conscientiously, securing for them all the benefits that depend upon his professional skill and care.
2. A Physical Therapist should keep secret all confidential matters pertaining to the patient, except in the interest of justice, public health, or public safety.
3. A Physical Therapist should regularly evaluate the patient's condition. Any unusual changes in the patient must be reported to the physician-in charge.

## C. DUTIES TO OTHER PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

1. A Physical Therapist must work harmoniously with his or her colleagues and be willing to share knowledge and experience.
2. A Physical Therapist must observe utmost caution, tact and prudence regarding the professional conduct of other physical therapists. He should not say or do anything that might lessen the patient's confidence in his colleague.
3. A Physical Therapist must not take charge of, nor advise a patient under the care of another therapist, unless in a case of emergency, or until the attending physical therapist has endorsed the case to him, unless the physician-in-charge has referred the patient to him.
4. Irreconcilable difference of opinion or conflicts among the Physical Therapist must be referred to competent authorities for arbitration, selected by the Board of Directors of the Philippines Physical Therapy Association.

## D. DUTIES TO THE PUBLIC

1. A Physical Therapist should cooperate with the proper authorities in the promotion of health in the community. He must inform the public about diseases, their dangers, cures and prevention.
2. A Physical Therapist must render services unselfishly to the indigent, in accordance with the prescriptions/or written order/or written referral of a registered and licensed physician.

## E. DUTIES TOWARD ALLIED PROFESSIONALS

1. A Physical Therapist must cooperate with, and safeguard the interests, reputation and dignity of other allied health professionals.
2. A Physical Therapist should not involve himself in the promotion or sale of any medical device apparatus or drugs.
3. A Physical Therapist must be imbued with a spirit of loyalty, mutual confidence, respect and faith in allied professionals joining them in cheerful cooperation and self-sacrifices for the common good.
4. A Physical Therapist should organize and leave all the record and other data necessary to carry out the work for his success or before leaving his position.
5. A Physical Therapist must make due acknowledgment of assistance received from his associates.
6. Professional criticism of associates should be made only for the welfare of the patient and service and only in a formal accusation before the proper authority to try the case on its merits.
7. A Physical Therapist must report to the Proper authorities any knowledge of unethical practices being carried on by any member of any profession and be willing to testify in an investigation of such charges if requested.
8. A Physical Therapist must not criticize the qualifications of any competitor in order to gain preference in employment.

## F. DUTIES TO THE PHYSICIAN

1. A Physical Therapist must give the treatment only upon the prescription/or consultation/or referral of a duly registered physician.
2. A Physical Therapist must give all necessary information concerning the case to the physician-incharge, during the progress of the treatment.

## G. DUTIES TO THE PROFESSION

1. A Physical Therapist does not base his practice on any exclusive dogma or sectarian system. He should strive to broaden his cultural outlook and deepen his professional interest. He should pursue studies to improve his efficiency and enhance the prestige of the profession.

2. A Physical Therapist must avoid any conduct which may cause discredit to the profession. Mobility of character should be the guiding principle.

## Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics for Occupational Therapists

### A. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

1. An Occupational Therapists must possess the personal qualifications of integrity, reliability and loyalty.
2. An Occupational Therapist must maintain a high standard of professional practice at all times.
3. An Occupational Therapist must respect confidential information available to them in the course of their professional duties.
4. Referrals for assessment and advice may be accepted from professional colleagues. Referrals for treatment may be accepted from medical practitioners and other qualified professional colleagues, provided the occupational therapist has direct access to the patient's doctor and when necessary informs him before commencing treatment.
5. Medical and other relevant records shall be consulted before commencing treatment.
6. An Occupational Therapist must consult and cooperate with all persons responsible for the psycho-social, medical and educational progress of those in need of such services.
7. An Occupational Therapist must keep reports and records clearly and concisely for the information of professional colleagues, and for legal purposes.
8. An Occupational Therapist must continue growing professionally, through advance studies, researches, reading, seminars, in-service training and other ways to update trends in the practice of the profession.
9. An Occupational Therapist shall recognize the responsibility to promote the profession to students, medical and allied health professions and to the public in general.

### Effectivity

These Codes of Ethics for Physical Therapist and Occupational Therapist shall be published in the Official Gazette after approval hereof by the Commission and shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication.

Done in the City of Manila, this 5th day of April, 1988.