

The 2,000 Members of VPTA want to help you:

- Understand physical therapist practice;
- Recognize documentation and coding that most accurately reflect services rendered;
- Research evidence that supports physical therapist interventions; and
- Access physical therapists who are qualified to participate in physical therapy chart review.

**For more information,
please contact VPTA at
www.VPTA.org.**

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What **Insurers** Need to Know About **Physical Therapist** Services in **Virginia**



American Physical Therapy Association
The Science of Healing. The Art of Caring...



VIRGINIA PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

Why Physical Therapy?

- Physical therapists are experts in how the musculoskeletal and neuromuscular systems function.
- Physical therapist services are cost-effective. Early physical therapy intervention prevents more costly treatment later, can result in a faster recovery, and reduces costs associated with lost time from work.
- Patients pay less when they can access a physical therapist's services directly.

Who Are Physical Therapists?

Physical therapists (PTs) are health care professionals who diagnose and treat people who have medical problems or other health-related conditions that limit their abilities to move and perform functional activities in their daily lives. They also help prevent conditions associated with loss of mobility through fitness and wellness programs. PTs provide care in a wide variety of settings including hospitals, schools, outpatient clinics, and sports facilities. The minimum educational requirement is a master's degree, yet most educational programs now offer the doctor of physical therapy (DPT) degree. A PT must graduate from an accredited physical therapist program before taking a national licensure examination. Also, licensure is required in each state in which a physical therapist practices.

High Standards of Conduct

Physical therapists who are members of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) pledge to comply with the Association's Code of Ethics and Guide for Professional Conduct. APTA members maintain and promote high standards in the provision of physical therapy services.

Virginia Physical Therapy Association

The Virginia Physical Therapy Association (VPTA) is a component of the American Physical Therapy Association representing physical therapists and physical therapist assistants in Virginia. VPTA is an advocate for physical therapists, assisted by physical therapist assistants, as providers of choice for conditions that affect movement, function, and health.

VPTA represents nearly 2,000 practitioners. These physical therapists and physical therapist assistants are licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia to help patients achieve functional independence and reduce functional impairments. They provide a broad range of services, including examination, evaluation, diagnosis, and intervention; and they practice in a variety of settings throughout the health care delivery system.

VPTA and Payer Relations

A VPTA payer relations specialist can facilitate communication between insurers and physical therapist practitioners in order to provide the highest-quality physical therapy services to Virginians.

