

ETHICS COMMITTEE

I. Composition:

- A. **ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES, SECTION 2 ETHICS COMMITTEE.**
The Ethics Committee shall be a five-person committee, each of whom shall serve for four years. Four members shall be physical therapists, with one appointed annually by the Board of Directors. The physical therapist member with the most seniority in the committee shall serve as chair. The fifth member of the committee shall be a physical therapist assistant (PTA) who will not be eligible to serve as the Chair. The committee shall be charged with investigating any ethics complaints according to the Association's stated procedures, and with educating the membership and the public regarding ethical vs. unethical practices in physical therapy.

II. Purpose

- A. This Committee shall be responsible for fostering ethical practice in physical therapy as defined in APTA's Code of Ethics. The committee shall educate the membership and the public regarding ethical practices in physical therapy, shall provide a visible presence for the membership, the public, the insurance industry and the legislature regarding activities to prevent and curtail unethical practices in physical therapy, and shall be responsible for adjudicating ethical complaints against members in accordance with APTA's Disciplinary Action Procedural Document.

III. Duties and responsibilities of the Committee:

- A. This Committee shall foster standards of ethical practice of physical therapy, as defined in APTA's Code of Ethics.
- B. This Committee shall respond to inquiries from members, non-members, and the public regarding ethical vs. unethical standards of physical therapy practice. Consistent with APTA Ethics and Judicial Committee guidelines and standards in the Disciplinary Action Procedural Document, individuals requesting consultation or advice must disclose their identity. The Committee will not respond to anonymous inquiries.
- C. The physical therapist members of this Committee shall, in accordance with the Disciplinary Action Procedural Document, respond to the Chapter President's appointment and serve as the Ethics Panel to investigate allegations of an ethical complaint against members of the Association when APTA's Ethics and Judicial Committee determines that it is appropriate to begin the processing of a case at the Chapter level.

- D. This Committee shall educate the membership regarding ethical vs. unethical practices in physical therapy through presentations at Chapter, District, and Special Interest Group educational meetings, and through information prepared for Chapter publications and for the Ethics page on the PPTA website.
 - E. This Committee shall educate non-members and the public regarding ethical vs. unethical practices in physical therapy through efforts coordinated with the Chapter, PPTA Committees, and APTA's Ethics and Judicial Committee.
 - F. This Committee shall represent the Chapter's interest in promoting the highest standards of ethical practice in physical therapy by providing a visible presence for the members, non-members, the public, the insurance industry and the legislature in activities to prevent and curtail unethical practices in physical therapy.
 - G. This Committee functions within guidelines set forth by APTA's Ethics and Judicial Committee and in accordance with the Disciplinary Action Procedural Document.
- IV. Duties and responsibilities of the Chair:
- A. Coordinate the efforts of the Committee as listed in Section II and III.
 - B. Attend the annual fall PPTA Board of Directors meeting and other Board meetings as deemed necessary by the President or Board of Directors.
 - C. Present quarterly written reports of current activities to the PPTA Board of Directors and/or the Executive Committee.
 - D. Maintain close contact with the Chapter President and APTA's Ethics and Judicial Committee regarding inquiries and/or complaints regarding ethical standards of practice. Maintain confidentiality regarding inquiries and investigations, as per APTA's Disciplinary Action Procedural Document.
 - E. Notify and forward to the EJC a copy of any final (fully adjudicated) public disciplinary action taken by a licensing board or government agency against an APTA member, as outlined in APTA Disciplinary Action Procedural Document..
 - F. Notify and forward to the EJC a copy of any final, (fully adjudicated) public federal action (e.g., U.S. Department of Health & Human Services) taken against an APTA member, as outlined in APTA's Disciplinary Action Procedural Document.

- H. Annually and prior to the end of the term of office, review and revise this section of the PPTA Policy and Procedure Manual as indicated, and revise sooner if changes are indicated.
- I. Orient new Committee Chair and Committee members to functions, duties, and responsibilities of this committee. Provide records, files and Ethics Committee Handbook to successor.
- J. Submit an annual budget to the Chapter Treasurer, as requested.