

Effective and efficient relationships physical therapists and physiatrists

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Abstract

In the current health care climate, physicians and therapists must work together as collegial team members. Good communication between the disciplines is required so that the continuum of care is uninterrupted, lessening the opportunity for prolonged patient suffering and increased health care costs with poor clinical outcomes. The focus of the presentation is on updating physiatrists on what can be expected in care provided by physical therapists. Topics included are: educational status, levels of expertise, expected clinical outcomes, national databases, as well as current and future research agenda integral to the physical therapy progression. Ultimately with this increased understanding, physiatrists and physical therapists can build effective and efficient relationships to improve our patients' care with the best possible clinical outcomes.

Biography

Dionne received her BS in Physical Therapy from University at Buffalo, MS in Education from Syracuse University, a DPT from Arizona School of Health Sciences, and PhD in Physical Therapy from Texas Woman's University. She is a tenured Associate Professor in Rehabilitation Sciences and Director of the Mechanical Therapy Research Lab at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. She has authored more than 40 peer-reviewed publications and innumerable presentations; is serving currently on the Board of Directors at NCOPE and as a Content Expert for the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties.

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