

**WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
DIVISION OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

**PT 760: Clinical Education 3
Suggestions for Planning the Clinical Learning Experience**

The purpose of this document is to provide the clinical instructor with information that will be helpful in preparing for student clinical rotations for PT 760.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Students enrolled in the course have completed 2 years of the three year professional DPT.

Students have completed course content in:

- Gross Anatomy (5 credit hours), Kinesiology (4 credit hours), and Neurobiology (4 credit hours)
- Two courses in Development and Movement Science (4 credit hours)
- Four courses in Clinical Sciences (includes Embryology, Histology, Pathology, Radiology, Pharmacology, Oncology, Wound Healing/Wound Care. 12 credit hours)
- Five courses in Evidence-Based Practice (10 credit hours) and one course in Research (2 credit hours)
- Two courses in Professional Roles (includes professionalism, communication, ethics, documentation, reimbursement, culture, patient and community health education. 7 credit hours)
- One course in Evaluation Procedures (Screening for medical referral, vital signs, goniometry, manual muscle testing, functional assessment, posture. 3 credit hours), two courses in PT Procedures (Gait and transfers, bandaging, tilt table, therapeutic exercise. 6 credit hours), and two courses in therapeutic modalities (4 credit hours)
- One course in Cardiovascular/Pulmonary PT (3 credit hours)
- One course in Neurologic PT (Motor Learning, Vestibular, CVA, Parkinson's, MS, Guillain Barre. 3 credit hours)
- Two courses in Orthopedic PT (spine, extremities, manual therapy. 8 credit hours)
- One course in Geriatric PT (3 credit hours)

Students have completed the following clinical experiences:

PT 720 and PT 740: A series of part-time observations in acute care, inpatient rehabilitation, outpatient, skilled nursing, home health, and pediatrics.

In addition, the students have completed a one-hour symposium that integrates content from various curricular tracks using a case study format.

Students have not yet taken the following coursework:

- Two courses in administration/management and health policy (5 credit hours)
- One course in Orthotics/Prosthetics (3 credit hours)
- One additional course in Neurologic PT (TBI, SCI, assistive/adaptive technology. 2 credit hours)
- One course in Pediatric PT (3 credit hours)
- One course in Niche PT Practice (Industrial/work hardening, EMG, aquatics, etc. 3 credit hours)
- One additional course in Research

SUPERVISION GUIDELINES

Students must be supervised by a licensed physical therapist any time the student is providing direct (hands-on) patient care. Each state has different licensure laws governing the practice of Physical Therapy, and may provide more stringent guidelines than those outlined here. In such cases, state law supersedes Division or University governance, and must be adhered to by all parties. In addition, certain payers (e.g. Medicare) may have specific restrictions regarding student supervision.

Procedures

1. Whenever a student is providing direct patient care, the student must have the direct (on-site) supervision of a licensed physical therapist.
 - a. Direct patient care means care that involves hands-on examination; developing an evaluation, diagnosis/prognosis, or treatment plan; hands-on intervention; or providing patient/family instruction.
 - b. Direct supervision means that the supervising physical therapist is physically present on-site and immediately available for direction and supervision. The supervising physical therapist will have direct contact with the patient during each visit. (APTA, House of Delegates 06-00-18-30). This definition is consistent with the WV physical therapy practice act [§30-20-3(9) and §30-20-17(a)(1) which requires “on-site” supervision of students.
 - c. A patient visit is defined as all encounters with a patient in a 24 hour period (APTA, Guide to Physical Therapist Practice)

At no time may a student provide direct patient care without a physical therapist on the premises.

2. The supervising physical therapist shall determine the intensity of supervision needed, based on:
 - a. The needs and the acuity of the patient(s) involved.
 - b. The level of training of the student.
 - c. The physical therapist's judgment of the student's ability to provide safe and effective care, based on direct observation and assessment of the student's knowledge, clinical skills, and interpersonal skills.
 - d. Compliance with regulations of third party payers (e.g. Medicare). A summary of Medicare's regulations regarding students and payment for PT services is attached.

According to APTA policy, it is always the physical therapist's responsibility to decide what care may be delegated, and how much supervision is required, when delegating such care to others (APTA House of Delegates 06-00-16-27).

More details are available on our website at <http://medicine.hsc.wvu.edu/pt/Education/Clinical-Education/Policies/Student-Supervision>