

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

COMPETENCY REVALIDATION STUDY OF SPECIALTY PRACTICE IN SPORTS PHYSICAL THERAPY

Mark D. Weber, PT, PhD, SCS, ATC^a
Jill Thein-Nissenbaum, PT, SCS, ATC^b
Lynn Bartlett, PT, MPT, SCS^c
William R. Woodall, PT, EdD, SCS, ATC^a
Mark F. Reinking, PT, PhD, SCS, ATC^d
Harvey W. Wallmann, PT, DSc, SCS, ATC^e
Edward P. Mulligan, PT, DPT, SCS, ATC^f

ABSTRACT

Purpose. The primary purpose of this study was to revalidate the competencies that define the practice of sports physical therapy. Additionally, the study allowed for the comparison of responses of board certified specialists in sports physical therapy to respondents who were not specialists.

Methods. A survey instrument based the on American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties practice analysis template and The Guide to Physical Therapist Practice was developed by the Sports Specialty Council and a panel of subject matter experts in sports physical therapy. The instrument was sent to 630 physical therapists, 315 of whom were board certified specialists in sports physical therapy and 315 of whom were randomly selected members of the Sports Physical Therapy Section who were not board certified specialists in sports physical therapy. Two hundred and thirty seven subjects returned completed surveys for a 41% response rate. One hundred and fifty eight respondents were sports specialists

Results. The survey results were reviewed by the Sports Specialty Council and another panel of subject matter experts. Using a defined decision making process, the results were used to determine the competencies that define the specialty practice of sports physical therapy. Survey results were also used to develop the sports physical therapy specialty board examination blue print. A number of significant comparisons between the specialists and non-specialists were identified.

Conclusion. The competency revalidation process culminated in the publication of the Sports Physical Therapy Description of Specialty Practice. This document serves to guide the process related to the attainment and maintenance of the board certified clinical specialist in sports physical therapy.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mark Weber
204 Devereaux Court
Madison, MS 39110
email: mweber@shrp.umsmed.edu

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to acknowledge the efforts of the all the members of the subject matter expert panels, the consultants, members of the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialists, and the Department of Specialist Certification, American Physical Therapy Association. This study would not have been possible without the support, direction, and guidance these individuals provided.

^a University of Mississippi Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

^b University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, Wisconsin

^c Olympic College
Bremerton, Washington

^d Saint Louis University
Saint Louis, Missouri

^e University of Las Vegas Nevada
Las Vegas, Nevada

^f UT Southwestern School of Health Profession
Dallas, Texas