Position Statement on the Use Of Physical Action Modalities During Level II Fieldwork

Occupational Therapy (OT) students from The University of Texas Medical Branch School of Health Professions at Galveston may engage in the use of physical action modalities (PAMS) under the direct supervision of a licensed OTR who has obtained training in the application, treatment indications for and use of PAMS. The occupational therapy student may not formulate or recommend PAMS treatment without the direct supervision of an OTR. Students have been instructed that the use of PAMS is an advanced skill and that as students, they may incorporate and use PAMS as a treatment modality only under the direct supervision of an OTR. The Department of Occupational Therapy, UTMB/SHP at Galveston, does not assume responsibility for any action resulting from the use of PAMS.

Rationale underlying this disclaimer:

The Department of Occupational Therapy at the UTMB/SHP embraces the belief that curricula should prepare students for roles as entry-level practitioners in a variety of health care settings. Current practice patterns form the basis for curriculum content, which is continuously evaluated and refined to reflect changes in practice. In light of this belief, PAMS have been introduced in the curriculum at a very basic level. It continues to be the belief of the faculty that the competent use of PAMS requires more advanced training, which is not within the realm of education for entry-level practice.

Because of the dynamic nature of occupational therapy practice, it is not possible to prepare students for every role in which they might find themselves. Thus, curricula attempt to educate students in the occupational therapy process, and familiarize them with the concepts and techniques germane to practice in physical, mental, and developmental health arenas. Students are expected to apply their knowledge and skills in a variety of settings and contexts. Students are encouraged to seek advanced training in areas considered beyond entry level practice.