

**Position Statement on Mobilization/Manipulation:
Orthopaedic Section, APTA, Inc.**

The practice of manual therapy in the United State has evolved from the contributions of numerous clinicians and has led to eclectic musculoskeletal evaluation, treatment concepts, and procedures. Manual therapy evaluation and treatment techniques are one component of the conservative management of the patient with musculoskeletal disorder and are used in combination with a variety of physical procedures to assist in the elimination of pain and improve function in activities of daily living and in recreational and work settings

**Manipulation
Orthopaedic Section, APTA, Inc.**

The Orthopaedic Section of the APTA supports the use of manipulative techniques by licensed physical therapists in the treatment of individuals with musculoskeletal dysfunctions.

The following guidelines are further offered:

- I. Manipulation in all forms, except under anesthesia, is within the scope of practice of the licensed physical therapist.
2. Manipulation includes a variety of techniques:
Peripheral joint and spine mobilization, thrust, oscillations, articulations, soft tissue mobilization, myofascial release and craniosacral techniques.

AAOMPT

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists has adopted the following position statements:

1. Any joint manipulation/mobilization techniques in to a restricted or painful range should be performed by the physical therapist and not delegated to supportive personnel including physical therapist assistance.
The AAOMPT recognizes that there are other manipulation/mobilization techniques that at times requires on going critical decision making while at other times are relatively routine. In the routine circumstances, those techniques may be delegated. When the higher level of critical decision making is necessary those techniques should be performed by the physical therapist and not delegated to support personnel including the physical therapist assistant
2. The AAOMPT is opposed to the teaching of joint manipulation/mobilization to all supportive personnel including physical therapist assistance.

These Statements are supported by Ortho Section. They will be brought to HOD 6/99.

Position on interventions exclusively performed by physical therapist.

It is the position of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) that the scope of practice within physical therapy includes interventions that are exclusively performed by the physical therapist. These interventions encompass procedures including, but not limited to, spinal and peripheral mobilization/manipulation, which are components of the manual therapy techniques: and selected sharp debridement, which is a component of wound management. (B of D 11/98, V-75).

Position on Continuing Education for Physical Therapist Assistants and Other Supportive Personnel:

It is a position of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) to sponsor or support only those continuing education programs, paraprofessional career development opportunities or educational products that are consistent with APTA's Standards of Practice for Physical Therapy, the Nonnative Models of Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant Education and other Board of Directors or House of delegates approved documents. Such consistency shall be in the areas of course content, goals, objectives, target audience and participants. (B of D 11/98, V-78).

Position statement from the Orthopaedic Section addressing manipulation

Any small amplitude, high velocity thrush joint manipulation technique should be performed only by the physical therapist.