

Evidence- based practice

Policy statement

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Evidence-based practice

World Physiotherapy believes that physiotherapists have a responsibility to ensure that the management of patients/clients, carers and communities is based on the best available evidence. They also have a responsibility not to use techniques and technologies that have been shown to be ineffective or unsafe.

Evidence should be integrated with clinical experience, taking into consideration beliefs, values and the cultural context of the local environment, as well as patient/client preferences. Evidence-based practice (EBP) is more easily achievable in environments that embrace and promote it.

World Physiotherapy encourages its member organisations to:

- work with managers and organisations to provide appropriate support structures, resources, facilities and learning opportunities to ensure the delivery of the highest quality of physiotherapy services possible
- ensure that physiotherapists are able to evaluate practice critically, including being able to identify questions arising in practice, accessing and critically appraising the best evidence, and implementing and evaluating the outcomes of their actions
- facilitate the provision of relevant life-long learning activities that are fundamental to evidence-based physiotherapy practice, which should be introduced in entry level physiotherapy education programmes and should extend through continuing professional development opportunities(1, 2)
- promote collaboration within the profession and with other professions or disciplines at local, national and international levels to facilitate information generation, sharing and implementation
- develop partnerships and collaborations on projects relevant to EBP
- call on national governments and non-governmental organisations to facilitate and promote evidence-based health services (eg through providing appropriate resources such as computers, internet access, online databases, libraries, and training in EBP skills)

Glossary (<https://world.physio/resources/glossary>)

Continuing professional development (CPD)

Entry level physiotherapist professional education programmes

Evidence-based practice (EBP)

Interprofessional collaborative practice

Approval, review and related policy information	
Date adopted:	Approved at the 15th General Meeting of WCPT June 2003. Revised and re-approved at the 16th General Meeting of WCPT June 2007. Revised and re-approved at the 17th General Meeting of WCPT June 2011. Revised and re-approved at the 19th General Meeting of WCPT May 2019. Revised and re-approved at the 20 th General Meeting of WCPT May 2023.
Date for review:	2027
Related World Physiotherapy policies:	World Physiotherapy policy statements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ethical principles and the responsibilities of physiotherapists and member organisations• Research• Standards of physiotherapy practice
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References

1. World Physiotherapy. Physiotherapist education framework. London, UK: World Physiotherapy; 2021 [3 Nov 2023]. Available from: <https://world.physio/what-we-do/education>.
2. World Physiotherapy. Policy statement: Education. London, UK2023 [6 Nov 2023]. Available from: <https://world.physio/policy/ps-education>.

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