

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Regarding
The Profession Of
Physical Therapy

Authorized by
The Public Relations Committee
of the Maryland State
Physical Therapy Conference

Chartered under the laws of the
State of Maryland

- 1 What is the relationship of Physical Therapy to medicine and is it a part of medicine?

Physical Therapy is not a new phase or system for recognition and treatment of disease. It is an essential and integral part of medicine, such as surgery, dentistry, nursing, etc. Physical Therapy works hand in hand with any and all of the various specialties in medicine.

- 2 Are Physical Therapists licensed? If so, by whom?

In 1947, the Maryland State Legislature enacted the Physical Therapy Law in which all Physical Therapists were licensed. The BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS is composed of five medical physicians selected by the Governor from a list submitted by THE MARYLAND MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL FACULTY.

- 3 Who practices Physical Therapy?

Those persons who have met the educational requirements are eligible to take the examinations as given by THE MARYLAND STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS.

- 4 What are the educational requirements?

Among some of the educational requirements are the following:

- (a) Graduation from a school, college, hospital or university which has a complete and acceptable course in Physical Therapy, and which is accredited by the Maryland State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.
- (b) Graduation from an accredited school of physical education plus an accredited course in Physical Therapy.
- (c) Completion of three (3) years of college with science courses plus an accredited course in Physical Therapy.

- (d) Graduation in Medical Technology with a B. S. degree, plus an accredited course in Physical Therapy.

- 5 What are the divisions in the Physical Therapy profession?

- (a) First we have the medical practitioner who is making a specialty of Physical Medicine. He has taken additional training in Physical Therapeutics and is usually referred to as a Physiatrist. In the main, he is the head of Physical Therapy Departments in hospitals, institutions or Veteran's Rehabilitation Centers, such as Fort Howard or Walter Reed in Washington.
- (b) Next we have the Doctor of Physical Therapy who holds the degree from an accredited school, college or university. He in turn may be a Director of a Physical Therapy Department in an institution or hospital or may be in the private practice of Physical Therapy. The Doctor of Physical Therapy (D. Ph.T.) should be extended the same courtesy as the Doctor of Divinity (D. D.) or Doctor of Philosophy, (Ph. D.) etc., etc.
- (c) Thirdly we have the Physical Therapy Technician. These are mainly employed in hospitals, state institutions, etc. Very seldom does one find the Technician in private practice as they usually work under the direct supervision of a physician.

- 6 How does Physical Therapy affect the patient?

Physical measures acting as repair forces from without aid the physician to relieve his patient more quickly and to restore him to normal with lessened disability.

7 Does the State Industrial Accident Commission and other Insurance Organizations recognize Physical Therapy?

Yes. The State Industrial Accident Commission Schedule of Medical and Surgical Fees includes and compensates for Physical Therapy Treatments by a Licensed Physical Therapist, etc. Also many of the better insurance companies provide compensation for Physical Therapy treatments.

8 How does Physical Therapy differ from other healing professions?

Physical Therapy should not be confused with chiropractic or osteopathy, inasmuch as these are not recognized or accepted as part of the medical profession.

9 Should the patient feel free to discuss their problems with the Physical Therapist?

~~Yes.~~ The Physical Therapist will then have a clearer understanding of the patient's case. He in turn will discuss the case with the patient's personal physician thus establishing the outline of treatments to be followed in each specific instance.

10 What are some of the diseases, disorders and injuries treated by Physical Therapy?

Physical Therapy treatments are indicated in many conditions both acute and chronic and in a host of conditions which result from injury. To cite a few: low back pain, arthritis, neuritis, myositis, sciatica, post fractures, various skin conditions, multiple sclerosis, circulatory disturbances, following strokes, (hemiplegia) fibrositis, infantile paralysis, bursitis, muscle testing as well as nerve testing following injury, painful menstruation, (dysmenorrhea) and many other conditions too numerous to mention.