

**eTable.**  
Physical Therapy Scope of Practice in Relation to Other Professions<sup>a</sup>

Typical Roles and Competencies	Bangladesh		Portugal		Singapore		United States	
	PT	Others <sup>b</sup>	PT	Others <sup>b</sup>	PT	Others <sup>b</sup>	PT	Others <sup>b</sup>
<b>Exercise</b>								
Prescription	Y	OT	Y	OT, physical education teacher	Y	OT, sports trainer, personal trainer, specialized exercise trainers	Y	Athletic trainer, chiropractor, coach DO, exercise physiologist, LIP, OT, MD, personal trainer, specialized exercise trainers (eg, yoga)
Training and delivery	Y	OT, volunteers, family	Y	OT, sports trainer, physical education teacher, personal trainer, specialized exercise trainers	Y	OT, sports trainer, physical education teacher, personal trainer, specialized exercise trainers	Y	Athletic trainer, chiropractor, coach, exercise physiologist, OT, OTA, physical education teacher, personal trainer, specialized exercise trainers (eg, yoga)
<b>Gait</b>								
Evaluation	Y	OT	Y	Podiatrist, prosthetist/orthotist	Y	Podiatrist, orthotist, prosthetist	Y	Orthotist, podiatrist, prosthetist
Training (including use of mobility aids)	Y	OT	Y	Nurse (rehabilitation specialist), podiatrist, prosthetist, and orthotist	Y	Nurse, OT, orthotist, podiatrist, prosthetist, PTA	Y	Nurse, OT, orthotist, prosthetist, PTA
<b>Transfers</b>								
Evaluation	Y	OT, nurse	Y	OT, nurse (rehabilitation specialist)	Y	OT, nurse	Y	OT, nurse
Training	Y	OT, nurse		OT, nurse (rehabilitation specialist)	Y	OT, nurse	Y	OT, OTA, nurse
<b>Activities of daily living</b>								
Evaluation	Y	OT, nurse, SLP	Y	OT, nurse (rehabilitation specialist)	Y	OT, nurse	Y	Chiropractor, nurse, OT
Training	Y	OT, nurse, SLP	Y	OT, nurse (rehabilitation specialist)	Y	OT, nurse, OTA, PTA	Y	Chiropractor, nurse, OT, OTA, PTA
<b>Soft tissue</b>								
Massage	Y	OT	Y	Chiropractor, DO, MT	Y	Chiropractor, DO, MT, TCM practitioner	Y	Chiropractor, DO, OT, OTA, MT, PTA
Manipulation	Y		Y	Chiropractor, DO	Y	Chiropractor, DO, TCM practitioner	Y	Chiropractor, DO, LIP, MD
<b>Modalities</b>								
Heat and cold	Y	OT	Y	Chiropractor, OT	Y	Chiropractor, OT, PTA, OTA	Y	Athletic trainer, chiropractor, DO, LIP, OT, OTA, MT
Ultrasound	Y	OT	Y		Y	Chiropractor, OT	Y	Chiropractor, OT, OTA, PTA
Diathermy	Y		Y		Y		Y	Chiropractor, OT, OTA, PTA
Electrical stimulation	Y	OT	Y		Y	OT, PTA	Y	Chiropractor, OT, OTA, PTA

(Continued)

## International Perspective of Physical Therapy Workforce

eTable.  
Continued

Typical Roles and Competencies	Bangladesh		Portugal		Singapore		United States	
	PT	Others <sup>b</sup>	PT	Others <sup>b</sup>	PT	Others <sup>b</sup>	PT	Others <sup>b</sup>
<b>Aids prescription</b>								
Mobility aids	Y	MD	L	MD, OT (w/ch)	Y	Orthotist, OT(w/ch), prosthetist	L <sup>c</sup>	DO, LIP, OT (w/ch), MD
Assistive devices	Y	OT	L	MD, OT	Y	Orthotist, OT, prosthetist	L <sup>c</sup>	DO, LIP, OT, MD
Orthotics	L		L	MD, OT, podiatrist, prosthetist, orthotist	V	Orthotist, OT, podiatrist	L <sup>c,d</sup>	DO, OT, LIP, MD, orthotist, pedorthist podiatrist
Prosthetics	N		N	MD, prosthetist, orthotist	V	DO, MD, prosthetist	L <sup>c,d</sup>	DO, LIP, OT, MD, podiatrist, prosthetist
<b>Aids construction</b>								
Orthotics	L	OT	Y	OT, prosthetist, orthotist	V	OT, podiatrist, orthotist	Y	OT, orthotist, podiatrist
Prosthetics	N	OT	N	Prosthetist, orthotist	V	Prosthetist	Y	OT, prosthetist
<b>Aids fitting and training</b>								
Mobility aids	Y	OT	Y	OT	Y	Nurse, orthotist, OT (w/ch), prosthetist, PTA	Y	OT, OTA, PTA
Assistive devices	Y	OT	Y	OT	Y	OT, prosthetist	Y	Nurse (selected devices, [eg, raised toilet seat]), OT, OTA, PTA
Orthotics	V	OT	Y	OT, podiatrist, prosthetist, orthotist	Y	Orthotist, OT, podiatrist	Y	Orthotist, OT, OTA, pedorthist, podiatrist, PTA
Prosthetics	Y	OT	Y	OT, prosthetist, orthotist	Y	Prosthetist, OT	Y	OTA, OT, prosthetist, PTA
<b>Advanced practices</b>								
Iontophoresis	N		L	MD	L	MD	L	Chiropractor, OT, OTA, PTA
Trigger point–dry needling	N	MD	N	MD	N	Acupuncturist, DO, TCM practitioner	Y	Acupuncturist, chiropractor, DO, LIP, MD
Injections	N	MD	N	MD, nurse	N	MD	N	DO, LIP, MD
Order imaging	N	MD	N	MD	N	MD	M <sup>d,e</sup>	Chiropractor, <sup>f</sup> DO, LIP, MD
Order laboratory tests	N	MD	N	MD	N	MD	M <sup>d,e</sup>	DO, LIP, MD
Order medications	N	MD	N	MD	N	MD	M <sup>d,e</sup>	DO, LIP, MD
Order other rehabilitation services (eg, rehabilitation MD consultation)	L	MD	L	MD	L	MD	L	DO, LIP, MD
“Diagnose” diseases for official purposes	N	MD	N	MD	N	MD	M	DO, LIP, MD

(Continued)

## eTable.

Continued

**Methods:** We relied on public domain legal documents or professional guidelines for each country (see list below), complemented by the authors' subjective in vivo experience of the typical PT practices (and of other related professions) in each country. Although more specific information existed and indeed was used for the United States (where practice regulation exists at a higher level), the existent documentation is much scarcer and typically more vague for Singapore and Portugal. In those cases, more of the in vivo subjective experience was used to complete the table for these countries, and particularly for Bangladesh, where practice regulation is almost nonexistent and no formal source of information was available.

**Sources:**

## United States:

- American Physical Therapy Association. *Guide to Physical Therapist Practice 3.0*. 2014. Available at: <http://guidetoptpractice.apta.org/>. Accessed March 7, 2016.
- Moyers PA. The guide to occupational therapy practice. American Occupational Therapy Association. *Am J Occup Ther*. 1999;53:247–322.
- Yeomans SG. Chiropractic services beyond adjustments. Spine-Health Online. 2013. Available at: <http://www.spine-health.com/treatment/chiropractic/chiropractic-services-beyond-adjustments>. Accessed March 4, 2016.
- Health Careers Center. Orthotist and prosthetist. 2002. Available at: [http://www.mshealthcareers.com/careers/orthotist\\_prosthetist.htm](http://www.mshealthcareers.com/careers/orthotist_prosthetist.htm). Accessed March 7, 2016.

## Portugal:

- Portuguese government. Diagnostic and therapeutic technicians: scope, nature and structure of the career [in Portuguese]. *Diário da República*. Decreto-Lei n.o 564/99. 1999. Available at: <https://dre.pt/application/dir/pdf1sdip/1999/12/295A00/90839100.pdf>. Accessed November 20, 2015
- Portuguese government. Specific competencies of the nurses with rehabilitation specialty [in Portuguese]. *Diário da República*. 2.ª série - N.º 35-18 de Fevereiro de 2011. 2011. Available at: [http://www.ordemenfermeiros.pt/legislacao/Documents/LegislacaoOE/Regulamento%20125\\_2011\\_CompeticenciasEspecifEnfreabilitacao.pdf](http://www.ordemenfermeiros.pt/legislacao/Documents/LegislacaoOE/Regulamento%20125_2011_CompeticenciasEspecifEnfreabilitacao.pdf). Accessed February 3, 2016.
- Portuguese Central Administration of the Health Systems. Legislation on chiropractor and osteopaths [in Portuguese]. Available at: <http://www.acss.min-saude.pt/Terap%C3%AAuticasN%C3%A3oConvencionais/tabid/1155/language/pt-PT/Default.aspx>. Accessed February 3, 2016.

## Singapore:

- Ministry of Health of Singapore, Singapore government. Allied health professions. Available at: [https://www.moh.gov.sg/content/moh\\_web/healthprofessionalsportal/alliedhealthprofessionals/career\\_practice/allied\\_health\\_professions.html](https://www.moh.gov.sg/content/moh_web/healthprofessionalsportal/alliedhealthprofessionals/career_practice/allied_health_professions.html). Accessed December 12, 2015.
- Singapore Physiotherapy Association. Be a physiotherapist. Available at: <http://www.physiotherapy.org.sg/be-a-physiotherapist/>. Accessed December 8, 2015.

## Bangladesh:

- Only author's (M.L.) in vivo experience of PT in the country was used, as formal data sources are lacking.

<sup>a</sup> DO=doctor of osteopathy, OTA=occupational therapy assistant, LIP=licensed independent practitioner (eg, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant), PTA=physical therapist assistant, L/V=limited and/or variable, M=military, L=limited, MT=message therapist, MD=medical doctor, OT=occupational therapist, PT=physical therapist, PTA=physical therapist assistant, SLP=speech & language pathologist, TCM=traditional Chinese medicine, w/ch=wheelchair, Y=yes, N=no.

<sup>b</sup> Scope for provision of specific services may be more limited than PT (eg, gait training by US OTs is limited to task specific functional mobility).

<sup>c</sup> MD approval may be needed for reimbursement.

<sup>d</sup> With added certification.

<sup>e</sup> Selected medications, imaging, and laboratory studies.

<sup>f</sup> Chiropractors in New Mexico only.