

## HPA Research Priorities 2008

### Top 6 Priority Areas:

- Connecting research on utilization, effectiveness and efficacy of clinical interventions to policy
  - What areas of physical therapy effectiveness/efficacy research can be most influential in policy change?
  - How has health policy impacted the outcomes and delivery of physical therapy services?
  - How do state/federal regulations influence physical therapy service delivery and outcomes?
  - What research evidence is needed to influence Medicare and other payor reimbursement policy for physical therapy?
  - How does reimbursement impact utilization and outcomes of physical therapy services.
- Evidence Based Practice and Physical Therapy
  - What is the most effective way to ensure that research guides physical therapy practice?
  - What are the best methods and models to change physical therapist behavior?
  - What skills are needed by practitioners to provide evidence-based patient care, patient advocacy and or cost-effective care?
- Models of Physical Therapy Care Delivery
  - What is the best model of physical therapy service delivery for patients with chronic diseases and conditions?
  - What is the best model of physical therapy service delivery for patients with musculoskeletal conditions?
  - What is the impact on outcomes and cost if services are provided by PTs, PTAs, aides or other personnel?
  - What is the impact of having vs. not having continuity of care.
  - How frequently should physical therapy services be provided?
  - What kind of supervision of support personnel is most cost-effective?
  - What types of physical therapy interventions/delivery models are most cost-effective i.e. group services vs. individual etc.
  - What is the cost-effectiveness of physical therapy?
- Prevention Programs and Physical Therapy
  - What impact do prevention programs have on cost and utilization of physical therapy resources?
  - What is the impact of health behavior promotion on costs of physical therapy care? Physical therapy outcomes? utilization of physical therapy services?
- Leadership and Professionalism
  - How does the level of mastery of Leadership Administration Management and Professionalism (LAMP) skills by clinicians impact patient care delivery?
  - Development of reliable and valid measures of cultural competence of student physical therapists? physical therapists? Physical therapy practices? Institutions?
  - What is the cultural competence of student physical therapists? physical therapists? Physical therapy practices? Institutions?

- Descriptive epidemiology of trends and patterns of physical therapy use in the U.S.”
  - Who receives physical therapy?
  - What are the most common diagnoses and impairments of persons receiving physical therapy?
  - How do trends and patterns of use vary by setting?
  - What are the costs of providing physical therapy services for the most common diagnoses and impairments?

### **Other HPA Research Areas**

- Productivity in physical therapy
  - How do measures of productivity compare?
  - How does measurement of productivity impact care provision and patient outcomes?
  
- Documentation in physical therapy
  - What is the cost effectiveness of differing documentation system (i.e. electronic records vs. traditional records)?
  - How do documentation systems impact on care provision and patient outcomes?
  
- Demographics and physical therapy
  - What are the effects of changes in the demographics of PT educational program enrollment on practitioners and managers?
  - What is the effect of specialization, fellowship and residency training on patient outcomes?
  - What are the effects of changing population demographics on the demand for and use of physical therapy services?
  
- Physical Therapy Research Using Nationally Representative Data
  - What are successful strategies to increase the availability and scope of physical therapy related data within publically funded and publically available health surveys and data sources.
  - What type of data is needed to conduct clinical practice improvement research?
  - What type of data is needed to study cost-effectiveness of physical therapy services?
  - What is the process for adding data elements to National surveys such as National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS), National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)
  
- Health Disparities:
  - Are there health disparities within physical therapy service delivery, and outcomes?
  - How do we measure health disparities within physical therapy service access, delivery, and outcomes?
  - How do we measure cultural competence within physical therapy practice?
  
- Local and Global Community Engagement Initiatives
  - Assessment of the impact of local community engagement initiatives
  - Assessment of the impact of global community engagement initiatives