

# APTA and NATA Joint Principles

01

The **American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)** and the **National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA)** recognize and respect the value of patient access to essential health services delivered by physical therapists (PTs) and athletic trainers (ATs).

02

**APTA** and **NATA** agree that licensure is the standard for regulation for health care professions. Both organizations commit to support licensure of athletic trainers and physical therapists in all states. APTA and NATA support term and title protection for both professions.

03

**APTA** and **NATA** agree that the delivery of patient care should be consistent with state laws. The preferred standard for the delivery of care by athletic trainers is under the direction of or in consultation with a licensed physician and defined in state law.

04

**APTA** and **NATA** agree that each profession's licensure and scope of practice should be based on their education from an accredited program, training, and passage of an examination for licensure. Neither profession claims ownership of a treatment intervention, modality, setting, or patient population. No professional should perform services outside their own individual education and training.

05

**APTA** and **NATA** commit to collaboration and joint efforts to promote quality care across health care, including legislative efforts, public relations initiatives, and interprofessional practice.

06

**APTA** and **NATA** will promote and encourage leadership and participation of both athletic trainers and physical therapists in initiatives that advance sports health and safety.



**The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)** is an individual membership professional organization representing more than 100,000 member physical therapists (PTs), physical therapist assistants (PTAs), and students of physical therapy. APTA seeks to transform society by optimizing movement to improve the human experience.



**The National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA)** is the professional membership association for athletic trainers (ATs).

Founded in 1950, the NATA has grown to more than 45,000 members worldwide today. The mission of the NATA is to represent, engage and foster the continued growth and development of the athletic training profession and ATs as unique health care providers.