

Research

Policy statement

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Research

World Physiotherapy advocates the generation, dissemination and implementation of physiotherapy research evidence which is essential for the practice of evidence-based physiotherapy.

World Physiotherapy encourages member organisations to:

- advocate for their members engaged in research to conduct research in accordance with internationally recognised ethical principles and guidelines (1-8)
- ensure that research is carried out with the approval of a local/national research ethics review committee
 - assemble a properly constituted ethics review committee where there is no such review body, or lobby for another body to do so
- promote good clinical practice in the conduct of research activities, including:
 - adherence to ethical standards including obtaining the necessary consents
 - appropriate management and monitoring
 - accountability (including financial and reporting)
 - confidentiality and anonymity of participant's data
 - duty of care for research participants
 - identification and protection of intellectual property arising from the research
 - ensuring the integrity of the results and their reporting
 - reporting of adverse incidents
 - reporting results of the research endeavour, both positive and negative
 - following guidelines supporting ethical authorship practices (7, 8)
- support and promote collaboration in research endeavours at a local, national and/or international level with all those who can make a valuable contribution with respect to the initial concept, design, planning, execution, analysis, discussion and dissemination:
 - within the profession
 - with other professions or disciplines
 - with service users and providers
- raise awareness among their members of their responsibilities to record research projects on appropriate research databases, for example clinical trial registries, and reporting according to guidelines
- make their members aware of their responsibility to share freely the results of such research through a range of dissemination routes including databases, publication in appropriate professional journals, conference presentations, electronic media and the national press
- urge their members to follow and stay up-to date with research guidelines and standards that support the integrity and quality of research reporting (7, 8)
- advocate for open access initiatives supporting the dissemination of research
- recognise the role and responsibility that national associations have in promoting the evidence to support the practice of physiotherapists

World Physiotherapy believes that physiotherapy research should encompass all domains that impact on physiotherapy and users of these services.¹ Further, that the profession draws on relevant methodological approaches² that are accepted in the literature and appropriate to the design research questions under investigations, and is open to exploring innovation in research practice.

While not all physiotherapists are expected to be active researchers, it is a professional responsibility for all physiotherapists to use research findings and the best available evidence to inform their practice. This is supported by World Physiotherapy's policy statement on evidence-based practice (9)Physiotherapists should also recognise the opportunities for informing research through the routine collection of reliable practice-based data gathered in the course of every day practice.

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

Duty of care.

Evidence-based practice (EBP)

Interprofessional collaborative practice

Interprofessional team

Research ethics

Approval, review and related policy information	
Date adopted:	Approved at the 15th General Meeting of WCPT, June 2003 (replaced Declaration of Principle: Validation of practice techniques and technologies). Edited and re-approved at the 17th General Meeting of WCPT June 2011. Revised and re-approved at the 18th General Meeting of WCPT May 2015. 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• Evidence based practice• Informed consent

References

1. Council of Europe. Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine: Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine. Paris, France 1997 [6 Nov 2023]. Available from: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/164>.

¹ This includes but is not limited to: basic sciences; examination, diagnosis, prognosis/plan, and interventions/treatment; technological advances; theory development; service delivery and organisation of service delivery models/systems; economic analyses (eg cost effectiveness studies); implementation sciences; educational approaches; health and social care policy; patient/client perspectives; effectiveness of interprofessional practice; multimodal interventions.

² Examples of methodological approaches include, but are not limited to: meta-analysis, experimental, quasi-experimental, descriptive/quantitative, qualitative.

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2. Council of Europe. Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, Concerning Biomedical Research. Paris, France 2005 [6 Nov 2023]. Available from: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/195>.
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 4. Council for International Organizations of Medical Science. Clinical research in resource-limited settings. Geneva: CIOMS; 2021 [6 Nov 2023]. Available from: <https://cioms.ch/publications/product/clinical-research-in-low-resource-settings/>.
 5. World Health Organization. Standards and Operational Guidance for Ethics Review of Health-Related Research with Human Participants. Geneva, Switzerland 2011 [6 Nov 2023]. Available from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241502948>.
 6. World Medical Association. Declaration of Helsinki: Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects. Ferney-Voltaire, France 2013 [updated 6 September 2022] [6 Nov 2023]. Available from: <https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-declaration-of-helsinki-ethical-principles-for-medical-research-involving-human-subjects/>.
 7. Equator Network. Enhancing the QUALity and Transparency Of health Research.: Equator Network; 2023 [6 Nov 2023]. Available from: <http://www.equator-network.org/>.
 8. International Committee for Medical Journal Editors. Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals 2023 [6 Nov 2023]. Available from: <https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/>.
 9. World Physiotherapy. Policy statement: Evidence based practice. London, UK: World Physiotherapy; 2023 [6 November 2023]. Available from: <https://world.physio/policy/ps-ebp>.

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