

Original Research

The Revision of Integumentary/Wound Management Education Recommendations for Entry-Level Physical Therapists: A Delphi Study.

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Purpose: The purpose of this report was to describe the process for developing a consensus-based update to previously published entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) integumentary/wound management curriculum recommendations.

Methods: Content items from the 2014 recommendations were populated into Qualtrics and over 3,000 email invitations were sent to academic educators, clinical instructors, and ACEWM Wound Management Special Interest Group members. Content items were reviewed through a 3- round Delphi process.

Results: Over 130 professionals participated in Round 1, 46 in Round 2, and 38 of those 46 in Round 3. Several new content items were recommended along with multiple laboratory instruction suggestions. Final data supported the removal of 17 original items, including whirlpool and factitious wounds, and the addition of 75 new items, including shockwave therapy and fluorescence imaging. Each content item was organized into "Need to Include" and "Nice to Include" sections with one example learning objective and one hands-on laboratory activity provided in each category.

Conclusions: Updated content, new suggested laboratory activities, and streamlined organization will make the consensus-based 2023 recommendations easier to utilize and more helpful to educators and clinicians in planning didactic and clinical content as they prepare future physical therapists to meet entry-level practice expectations.

Keywords: Physical therapist entry-level education, wound management, physical therapy, integumentary/wound management curriculum recommendations

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