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Dear Sirs

Description of Physical Therapy

The World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) is the sole international organisation for physical therapy, representing more than 350,000 physical therapists worldwide through its 111 member organisations. WCPT was founded in 1951 and since 1956 has been a non-governmental organisation (NGO) in official relations with the World Health Organization.

WCPT is committed to moving physical therapy forward and to promoting the significant role the profession plays globally in improving health and wellbeing. WCPT encourages high standards of physical therapy research, education and practice.

The Polish Society of Physiotherapy (Polskie Towarzystwo Fizjoterapii) has been a member of WCPT since 1967, and WCPT recognises the Association as the sole authoritative voice for the physical therapy profession in Poland. As a member organisation of WCPT, the Polish Society of Physiotherapy has the responsibility to ensure that there are standards of practice for physical therapists in Poland and that standards for the education of physical therapists meet the international guideline. It is the role of the Polish Society of Physiotherapy uphold the practice standards and that members practising physical therapy in Poland meet the standard.

WCPT member organisations vote upon international policy at WCPT General Meetings. Member organisations, such as the Polish Society of Physiotherapy, have a responsibility to support,

promote and advance the role of physical therapists ensuring that standards are in place to deliver quality service to the public. WCPT member organisations accept WCPT policies and work to achieve the standards of practice and education as described in the WCPT's policies and guidelines.

WCPT's policies set out its agreed stance or opinion on a range of topics. They are important tools for informing health and social policy around the world and furthering the development of physical therapy services. Two key WCPT policy documents are the Description of physical therapy (<http://www.wcpt.org/policy/ps-descriptionPT>) and the WCPT guideline for physical therapist professional entry-level education (<http://www.wcpt.org/guidelines/entry-level-education>).

Physical therapists are qualified to undertake a comprehensive examination/assessment of the patient/client to formulate a diagnosis and prognosis/plan of care, implement a therapeutic intervention/treatment programme if appropriate, evaluate the outcome of any intervention/treatment, and determine discharge arrangements.

WCPT believes that physical therapist entry-level education should equip physical therapists to be first contact autonomous practitioners, able to assess and treat patients/clients without referral from another medical practitioner or other third party. Technicians, with only two years of education should not be recognised as physical therapists with full scope of practice, as they are not educated to a level where they meet the description of a physical therapist who can practice safely and autonomously, and therefore pose a potential risk to the public.

WCPT is supportive of any legislation that will empower the Polish physical therapist to cope with the challenges of the health sector locally, regionally, and internationally. I would urge your ministries of health, science and education to work collaboratively with the Polish Society of Physiotherapy to address local health needs.

All WCPT's policies and guidelines are available in full on our website <http://www.wcpt.org/policies> if you require further information.

Yours sincerely



Jonathon Kruger
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Polish Society of Physiotherapy