



INTER AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO
PONCE CAMPUS
HEALTH SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

**DIVISION OF PHYSICAL THERAPY LABORATORY COURSE INFORMATION AND
INFORMED CONSENT**

During the physical therapy educational experience at the Physical Therapist Assistant Program of the Inter American University, Ponce Campus, students will be instructed in and practice techniques and skills that will be used for clinical practice. As students first learn to perform these techniques, performance at a beginners level and at times may be stressful. As a student performing the techniques and as a student serving as a model, several things need to be understood.

1. Serving as a practice patient allows participants to practice and perfect technique performance. It is important for the educational experience.
2. Students who are practicing a technique with another student should always explain what they are going to do, give their partner instructions on what to expect and the purpose for what is being done, and **gain consent** for the technique to be performed.
3. Students who are the practice patients are to consider the technique to be performed on them, in light of any current or previous injuries or problems, and also considering their body type and tolerance for stress. The student serving as a patient has the right to remove themselves from any situation that they do not feel comfortable with or in which they feel they may be harmed. This includes when working with an instructor / or faculty member. Likewise, while one's medical history is private and protected, it is in everyone's best interest if the student serving as a patient discloses to their partner and the instructor if they have a problem / condition so that their partner and the instructor are aware of this. While caution should be used at all times, this allows for added caution when needed, or avoiding the activity all together.
4. Students performing techniques should constantly observe their partner and themselves for signs of discomfort or any other problem. One important sign is if the patient / partner is guarding or not relaxing. In most cases, this implies that the technique should not proceed. In addition, students should discuss with the instructor any limitations they have that may impact their performance of laboratory skills and techniques.
5. The consent process needs to be followed every time a new technique is practiced. It should become habit, and brought over to the clinical setting. While repetition is needed to perfect skills, techniques that stress / strain tissues should only be performed no more than twice during any one practice session.
6. **PARTICIPANTS ARE TO REMOVE THEMSELVES FROM ANY SITUATION IN WHICH THEY HAVE CONCERN THAT THEY WILL BE HARMED IN ANY WAY** (mental or physical). Participants with a history of an injury or problem related to the task should not be a patient for stressful examination or treatment techniques involving that area until they are assured that it is safe. Participants may discuss this topic with the instructor at any time.
7. Any adverse response during a course or during practice **MUST BE REPORTED** to the instructor immediately. This is not meant to get anyone in trouble. It is the policy of the Physical Therapy Assistant Program to report all problems, and this serves to protect all participants.
8. In the event the student-patient feels uncomfortable due to the manner the technique is being performed or understands the physical touching is inappropriate, the student must report immediately the event following the Institutional Sexual Harassment Policy.



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My signature below indicates that I understand each of the conditions of participation and agree to comply with all responsibilities and requirements.

Signature

Date