COVID-19 Prevention for Physical Therapy

Only essential therapy shall be administered on-site. Nonessential services shall not be provided in the physical location of the clinic. All lower acuity and routine visits shall either be delayed or transitioned to telehealth/virtual visits. For those services that are essential, and that cannot be done remotely, the following measures shall immediately be implemented:

Screening
- Patients shall be screened by phone and/or in-person prior to entering the clinic or facility. If they are exhibiting any respiratory symptoms or fever, the patient shall be rescheduled to the later of fourteen (14) days or three (3) days following the elimination of symptoms.
- All clinical and support staff shall also conduct daily self-screening for symptoms. Any employee presenting symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must be sent home to self-quarantine for fourteen (14) days.

Spacing and Distancing
- All lobbies shall be closed to patients, clients or patrons. Waiting areas shall be restricted to outside the clinic or facility. For example, patients may wait in their car and receive a notice when their treatment is available.
- All nonremote care must be one-on-one. Group therapy sessions are prohibited.
- Patient spacing must be actively monitored.
- Vendors, observers, and other non-essential individuals are prohibited from entering the clinic or facility.
- Social distancing (minimum of six feet) shall be implemented between workstations. "Workstation" is defined as the entire space used by patient and therapist to provide therapy. The parameter of each individual workstation shall be separated by at least six feet.
- All clinics and facilities shall operate at 50% or less occupancy, unless otherwise able to achieve acceptable social distancing.

Hygiene
- Handwashing and hygiene protocols must be implemented with clinical and support staff.
- Mandatory hand washing upon patient arrival and departure must be implemented.
- All tools, chairs, and supplies shall be sanitized consistent with standards issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) after serving each patient.
- Alcohol-based sanitizer and/or soap and water must be available in all clinics and facilities for patient and employee use.
- Sanitizer shall be available at each workstation and throughout the clinic or facility.
- Lobbies and clinics shall be cleaned frequently.
- Cash payments are strongly discouraged. Staff who take cash or credit card payments shall use cleansing measures between each transaction. Where possible, on-line (e.g.; Venmo, Squarecash, Googlepay, and similar payment apps) and telephonic credit card transactions are highly encouraged.