

# Review and Recommendation for Clinical Competence in Pediatric Physical Therapy Specialists

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**Purposes:** The evolution of specialization is considered to be a key step to improve the depth and breadth of health care knowledge and skills in the physical therapy (PT) profession. In order to promote the development of clinical specialization in pediatric PT, the purposes of this article were (i) to provide a literature review of current available clinical guidelines and competencies related to pediatric PT practice, and (ii) to report the suggested plan for promoting pediatric PT clinical specialization in Taiwan based upon the expert consensus meeting. **Methods:** Selected clinical guidelines and competencies were reviewed by one to three specialists in the field of pediatric PT. Through the expert consensus meeting, suggestions of pediatric PT clinical specialization process were generated. **Results:** Eight articles related to clinical guidelines and competencies were included. Seven were from the United States, and one from the New Zealand. The suggested competencies of the pediatric PT clinical specialists were divided into two parts: 1) advanced clinical PT common requirements and 2) advanced pediatric PT subject-specific requirements. The minimal level of requirements on attitude, knowledge and clinical skills for the pediatric PT clinical specialists should be identified in near future. In order to nurture a specialized pediatric PT, a 3-step recognition of pediatric PT clinical specialist, including junior pediatric PT, senior pediatric PT and pediatric PT certificated specialist, were proposed. **Conclusion:** There is need for a greater extent of planning and discussion for the specialization of pediatric PT, taking into account the Taiwan-specific situation. This article served as the draft material for future participation and discussion. (FJPT 2009;34(6):372-382)

**Key Words:** Specialization, Pediatric, Physical therapy, Competence

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