

The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) is an individual membership professional organization representing more than 100,000 member physical therapists (PTs), physical therapist assistants (PTAs), and students of physical therapy. APTA's vision is "transforming society by optimizing movement to improve the human experience." Its mission is "building a community that advances the profession of physical therapy to improve the health of society."

APTA seeks to improve the health and quality of life of individuals in society by advancing physical therapist practice, education, and research, and by increasing the awareness and understanding of physical therapy's role in the nation's health care system.

Physical therapy providers address pain through movement, direct care, and patient education. As movement experts, physical therapy providers intimately know that physical activity reduces risk of chronic conditions, many of which include pain. Pain is personal, and treating it takes teamwork, including the membership and empowerment of the person being treated.

The American Physical Therapy Association is committed to collaborating with others within and outside health care systems to positively impact the opioid crisis by reducing the number of individuals who are needlessly introduced to unnecessary drugs as the first or only option, optimizing health and functional outcomes, and decreasing downstream health care costs to ensure that patients and clients are provided the best options for preventing or managing pain.