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Healthcare Operations during the COVID-19 Pandemic- Speaker Series

March 2021

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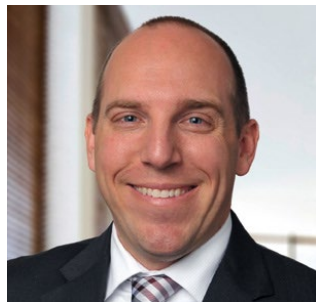
The Role of the Physical Therapist in Pandemic Response

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

Rehabilitation Services

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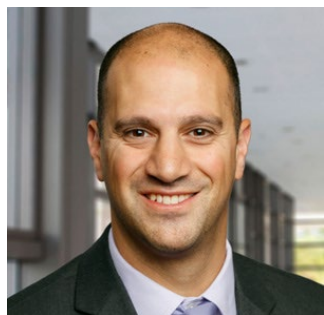
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The individual presenters have no financial disclosures that would be of potential conflict of interest with this presentation.



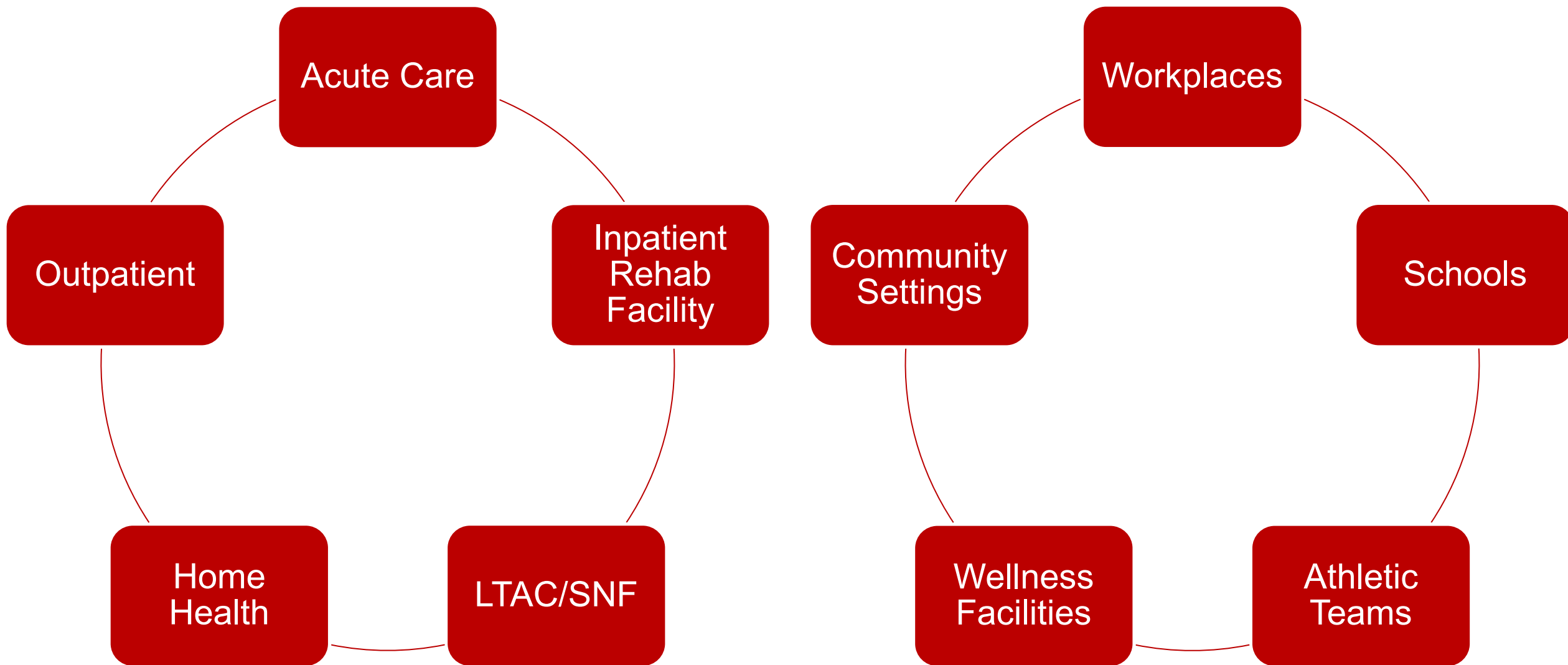
Objectives

- Understand the **role** of the Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant in healthcare
- Describe the **training and skillset** of the Physical Therapist to be leveraged in disaster response
- Apply **examples from the COVID-19 pandemic** to the role of the Physical Therapist in disaster response

Who is the Physical Therapist?

- The **Physical Therapist (PT)**
 - Experts in movement science
 - Advanced training and education
 - Licensed by individual states
 - Empowerment of patients through active participation
 - Evaluates and creates a physical therapy diagnosis and plan of care
- The **Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA)**
 - Licensed healthcare provider
 - Carries out a physical therapy plan of care

PT Settings



PT Specialty Practice Areas

Cardiovascular
& Pulmonary

Clinical
Electrophysiology

Geriatrics

Neurology

Oncology

Orthopedics

Pediatrics

Sports

Women's Health

Wound
Management

Physical Therapy in Disaster Response

- PT services, skills and training
 - Before disaster events
 - Planning with response team
 - During disaster events
 - Triageing, mobility assistance, determining accessibility needs, etc.
 - Providing interventions to “free up” ICU/high acuity beds
 - After disaster events
 - Addressing health conditions and injuries





The Physical Therapist and COVID-19

Rehabilitation intervention for patients with and without COVID-19 across the continuum at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center



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INTER

Cross-Continuum Collaboration and Care Coordination



Interdisciplinary High Acuity Intervention for COVID-19

Proning

- Contribute expertise in patient transfers and safe positioning

Suctioning

- Mobilize secretions during therapy interventions

Early Mobility

- Provide interventions to progress patient to next level of care

Acute Physical Therapy Pandemic Response

Medical Center Priority: To improve hospital throughput and efficiency in order to improve capacity and accommodate rapidly increasing COVID-19 admissions

PT Response:

- *Allocation of Personnel Resources:*
 - Surge staffing models
- *Patient Prioritization and Triage:*
 - Maximize PT's impact on throughput



Inpatient Physical Therapy Pandemic Response

Medical Center Priority: To promote safety, minimize potential virus exposures and to provide effective interventions while modifying care delivery.

PT Response:

- *Alternative model of care delivery*
 - Made an interactive environment socially distant for safety



Outpatient Physical Therapy Pandemic Response

Medical Center Priority: To promote safety, conserve PPE, and minimize potential virus exposures by limiting the number of people in outpatient areas

PT Response:

- *Triage “Elective” Procedures*
 - Prioritized acute conditions
- *Ongoing Response*
- *Incorporating Virtual Platforms*
 - Impact on quality and access



Additional PT Contributions in Disaster Response

Leadership

- Hospital Incident Command Structure
- “Dot connector”

Advanced Clinical Training

- Multi-system screening

Emergency Orders

- Leverage PTs' training



A sign beside the Brutus Buckeye statue directs Ohio State University medical employees where to go to receive their COVID-19 vaccine at the Schottenstein Center in Columbus on Friday, Adam Carra/Columbus Dispatch

PT in a Post-COVID-19 World

At 6 months, 76% of all patients had at least one of the listed symptoms: (Huang, January 2021)

- **fatigue/muscle weakness** (63%)
- difficulty sleeping (26%)
- hair loss (22%)
- difficulty with smell and taste (11 and 9%)
- **trouble with mobility** (7%)

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