



Global Advocacy Presentation



Global Advocacy Presentation instructions

Presenter: advocate, could be the educator, or an expert wheelchair provider.

Target audience: governing body (e.g. Ministry, Council, etc)

Globally, there is a shortage of rehabilitation professionals who are competent in appropriate wheelchair service

- 78 million people need an appropriate wheelchair, 1% of the world's population
- The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability recognizes personal mobility as a human right
- Appropriately trained personnel is one of the required factors to meet this need*
- Based on ISWP's estimates⁺, the world needs at least 780.000 wheelchair providers



*WHO. 2020. Assistive Technology Policy Brief

+ Reference to be added

Global guidelines indicate that wheelchairs should be provided through a 4 step process by trained personnel (World Health Organization, 2023, Wheelchair provision guidelines)

A shortage of appropriate wheelchair personnel and services hinders the achievement of the sustainable development goals:

illustration/picture of
abandonment of
wheelchairs

illustration/picture of
pressure injuries
and/or shoulder
injuries

illustration/picture
increased waiting
times



illustration/picture of
exclusion



illustration/picture of
overall increased
cost to the system



Let's hear from different stakeholders on the importance of appropriate wheelchair education

<https://youtu.be/933KIRcQnrg>
*Testimonial - Program Director
Karma Phuentsho*

<https://youtu.be/zDJe1fOKNfA>
Testimonial - Educator - Rosie Gowran 1

<https://youtu.be/p5uRSIxfcxI>
Testimonial - Educator - Rosie Gowran 2

*Insert link to resources 1.2.1.1
Wheelchair user testimonial*

<https://youtu.be/FFGtD6BwB-Y>
Testimonial - recent graduate

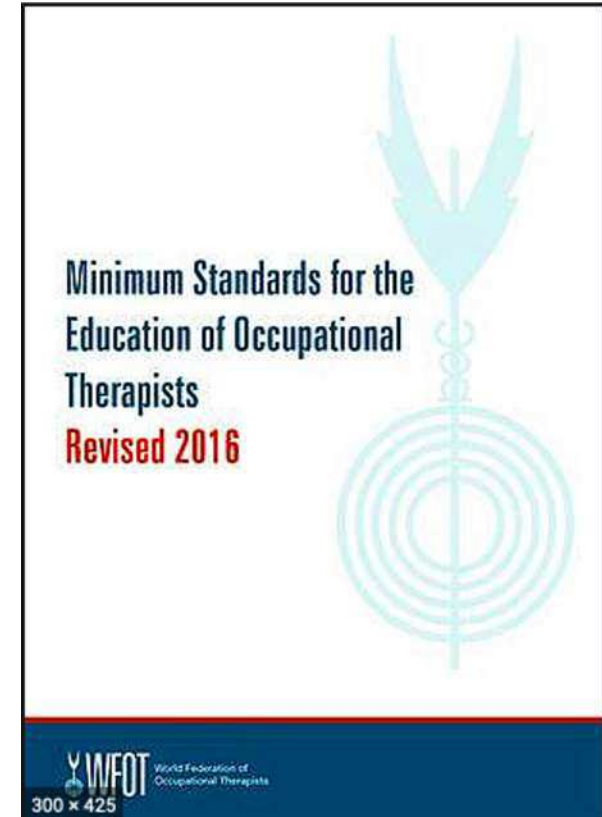
Rehabilitation professionals education are required to respond to the needs of the population...

Minimum Standards for the Education of Occupational Therapists (2016)



“The person - environment - occupation (PEO) relationship and its relationship to health, well-being and human rights.

Occupation Skills in: Analysis, adapting and grading occupation including Assistive technology scope and usage”



Physical Therapist Professional Entry Level Education (2011)



Interventions and treatments include:

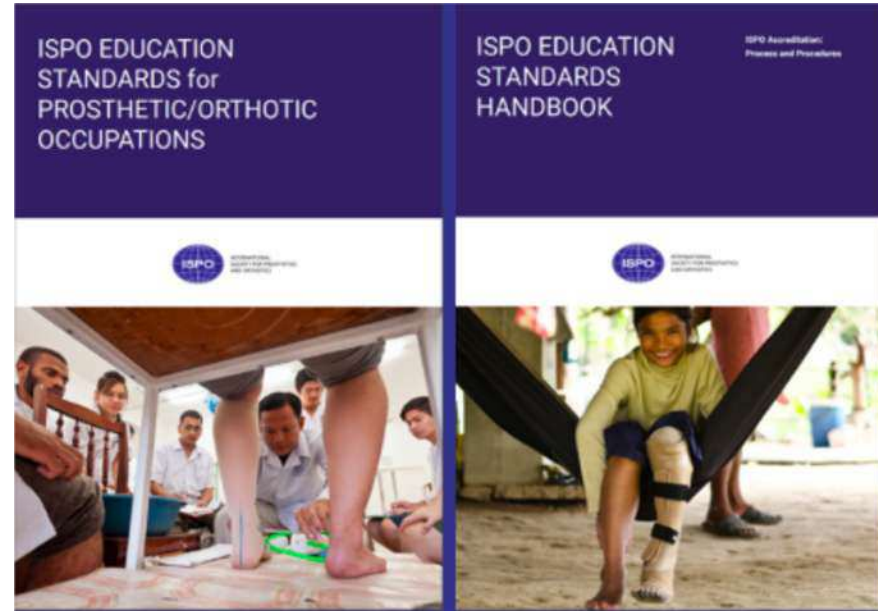
Therapeutic exercise which may include wheelchair propulsion programs and wheelchair training prescription, application and, as appropriate, fabrication of devices and equipment (e.g. wheelchairs)



ISPO Education Standards for Prosthetics/Orthotics Education (2018)



“Graduates should demonstrate an understanding of foundational knowledge and skills in prescription recommendation, prosthetic/orthotic design, biomechanical principles, fitting, evaluation, adjustment, user-specific outcomes, and material selection for the following:...wheelchairs...”



Global research indicates that current wheelchair content taught may be insufficient to minimum guidelines and evidence

Fung K et al. Wheelchair service provision education in academia. African Journal of Disability (Online). 2017;6:1-8.

Fung K et al. Integration of wheelchair service provision education: current situation, facilitators and barriers for academic rehabilitation programs worldwide. Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology. 2019 Apr 23.

McSweeney E, Gowran RJ. Wheelchair service provision education and training in low and lower middle income countries: a scoping review. Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology. 2019 Jan 2;14(1):33-45.

As a consequence, student's current wheelchair service knowledge and skills may be insufficient to respond to the needs of the population

Best, K et al. "A description of manual wheelchair skills training curriculum in entry-to-practice occupational and physical therapy programs in Canada." *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology* 10.5 (2015): 401-406.

Toro-Hernández M et al. Final Year Students' Knowledge on Basic Manual Wheelchair Provision: The State of Occupational Therapy Programs in Colombia. *Occupational therapy international*. 2020 Apr 27;2020.

Toro-Hernández ML et al. Undergraduate physiotherapy students' basic wheelchair provision knowledge: a pilot study in two universities in Colombia. *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology*. 2019 May 16.

Our context can join this global movement now!



ISWP Educator's Package is a tool to plan, integrate, and improve wheelchair education content in our program!



This research was made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), International Society of Wheelchair Professionals (ISWP) and the University of Pittsburgh. University of Pittsburgh scientists are working with the [U.S. Agency for International Development](#) (USAID) under sub-awards to develop the International Society of Wheelchair Professionals, a global network to ensure a level of standardization, certification and oversight, to teach and professionalize wheelchair services, and to build affiliations to put better equipment in the right hands. Since 2002, USAID and other U.S. government agencies have granted more than \$70 million to improve wheelchairs and wheelchair services worldwide. The sub-awards are: Agreement No. APC-GM-0068 and APC-GM-0107, Advancing Partners & Communities, a cooperative agreement funded through USAID under Agreement No. AID0AA-A-12-00047; Grant Agreement No. SPANS-037, Special Programs to Address the Needs of Survivors, under Leader with Associates Agreement No. GPO-A-00-04-00021-00 between USAID and World Learning; and Subagreement No. FY19-A01-6024, under University Research LLC.



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