

Decision Making In Pediatric Neurologic Physical Therapy

Decision Making In Pediatric Neurologic Physical Therapy Decision making in pediatric neurologic physical therapy is a critical component that directly influences the outcomes of therapy and the overall well-being of young patients. Pediatric neurologic physical therapy involves assessing, planning, implementing, and evaluating interventions tailored to children with neurological conditions such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, traumatic brain injury, and other neurodevelopmental disorders. Given the unique needs of pediatric patients and the complexity of neurological impairments, decision making in this field requires a comprehensive, evidence-based, and child-centered approach. This article explores the key aspects of decision making in pediatric neurologic physical therapy, emphasizing assessment strategies, intervention planning, multidisciplinary collaboration, and considerations for family involvement. Understanding the Foundations of Decision Making in Pediatric Neurologic Physical Therapy The Importance of a Child-Centered Approach Effective decision making begins with understanding that children are not just small adults; their developmental stages, cognitive abilities, and emotional needs significantly influence therapy choices. A child-centered approach ensures that interventions are tailored to the child's current developmental level, future goals, and personal preferences, fostering motivation and engagement. Evidence-Based Practice as a Cornerstone Decision making in pediatric neurologic physical therapy relies heavily on integrating the best available research evidence, clinical expertise, and family values. This triad supports interventions that are both effective and feasible, promoting optimal functional outcomes. Role of Clinical Reasoning Clinical reasoning involves analyzing assessment data, considering multiple options, predicting outcomes, and selecting the most appropriate intervention. It is an iterative process that adapts as new information emerges, ensuring personalized care. 2 Assessment Strategies in Pediatric Neurologic Physical Therapy Thorough assessment is fundamental to sound decision making. It provides the data necessary to identify impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions. Developmental and Neurological Evaluation Assessment typically includes: Motor development milestones Neurological examination focusing on tone, reflexes, and postural control Muscle strength and endurance testing Sensory processing assessment Postural alignment and symmetry analysis Functional and Participation Assessments Evaluating how the child's impairments affect daily activities and participation in school, play, and social settings helps in goal setting. Use of Standardized Tools and Observations Instruments such as the Gross Motor Function Measure (GMFM), Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory (PEDI), and other validated tools provide objective data to guide decision making. Planning Interventions Based on Assessment Data Once assessment data are collected, clinicians must interpret this information to develop individualized intervention plans. Setting SMART Goals Goals should be: Specific Measurable Achievable Relevant Time-bound This structured goal-setting facilitates clear decision making and progress evaluation. 3 Choosing Appropriate Therapeutic Approaches Interventions may include: Neurodevelopmental techniques (e.g., NDT/Bobath) Motor learning principles Strengthening exercises Orthotic and assistive device recommendations Functional task training Family education and home programs Balancing Intensity and Feasibility Decisions should consider the child's

endurance, attention span, and family capacity, ensuring that interventions are sustainable and effective. Multidisciplinary Collaboration and Decision Making Effective pediatric neurologic physical therapy often involves collaboration with a multidisciplinary team, including physicians, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, educators, and family members. The Role of Team in Decision Making Collaborative decision making ensures that interventions are comprehensive and address all aspects of the child's development. Family-Centered Care Engaging families in decision making respects their expertise and values, leading to increased adherence and better outcomes. Communication and Documentation Clear communication among team members and thorough documentation support consistent and informed decision making. Considerations for Ethical and Cultural Factors Decisions should be sensitive to cultural beliefs, socioeconomic factors, and ethical considerations, ensuring equitable and respectful care. Respect for Family Values and Preferences Listening to families and incorporating their preferences into therapy planning enhances engagement and satisfaction. Addressing Barriers to Access Decisions should consider logistical challenges, resource limitations, and access to services, adapting interventions accordingly. Monitoring, Re-evaluation, and Adjustments Decision making is an ongoing process. Regular monitoring allows clinicians to assess progress and modify interventions as needed. Outcome Measurement Using consistent assessments to evaluate effectiveness informs whether goals are being met. Adjusting Interventions Based on progress, clinicians may: Increase or decrease therapy intensity Alter intervention strategies Refocus goals to align with developmental changes Emerging Trends and Technologies in Decision Making Innovations such as telehealth, wearable sensors, and digital assessment tools are enhancing decision-making processes. Data-Driven Decision Making Utilizing real-time data facilitates more precise and timely interventions. Personalized and Precision Therapy Advances in neuroimaging and genetics are paving the way for individualized therapeutic approaches. Conclusion Decision making in pediatric neurologic physical therapy is a dynamic and complex process that integrates assessment, evidence-based interventions, family involvement, and ongoing evaluation. Clinicians must employ clinical reasoning, collaborate effectively, and remain adaptable to optimize outcomes for children with neurological conditions. By prioritizing a child-centered, ethical, and data-informed approach, pediatric physical therapists can make informed decisions that promote functional independence, participation, and quality of life for their young patients. QuestionAnswer What are key factors to consider when assessing a child for neurologic physical therapy? Key factors include the child's neurological diagnosis, developmental stage, motor deficits, cognitive abilities, family environment, and specific goals for therapy to tailor individualized intervention plans. How does evidence-based practice influence decision making in pediatric neurologic physical therapy? Evidence-based practice ensures that interventions are based on the latest research, improving outcomes by integrating clinical expertise with the best available evidence and patient preferences. What role does family involvement play in decision making for pediatric neurologic therapy? Family involvement is crucial as it provides insights into the child's daily challenges, preferences, and routines, ensuring that therapy goals are relevant and that strategies are sustainable at home. How do therapists prioritize goals in pediatric neurologic physical therapy? Goals are prioritized based on the child's developmental needs, functional importance, potential for improvement, family priorities, and the feasibility of achieving specific outcomes within a given timeframe. What decision-making models are commonly used in pediatric neurologic physical therapy? Models such as shared decision-making, the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), and goal-oriented approaches guide therapists in making collaborative and holistic decisions. How do therapists modify interventions for children with complex neurologic conditions? Therapists adapt interventions by considering co-morbidities, cognitive levels,

fatigue, and motivation, often using flexible, child-centered, and goal-specific strategies to optimize engagement and outcomes. What ethical considerations influence decision making in pediatric neurologic physical therapy? Ethical considerations include respecting the child's autonomy, ensuring informed consent (from guardians), balancing risks and benefits, and advocating for the child's best interests in therapy planning. How does technology impact decision making in pediatric neurologic physical therapy? Technology, such as neurorehabilitation devices and telehealth, provides new options for assessment and intervention, influencing choices by offering innovative, accessible, and engaging therapy modalities.⁶ What challenges do therapists face when making decisions about transitioning children from pediatric to adult services? Challenges include coordinating care continuity, addressing developmental changes, ensuring family readiness, and navigating different healthcare systems, all while maintaining focus on the child's evolving needs. **Decision Making in Pediatric Neurologic Physical Therapy: Navigating Complex Pathways for Optimal Outcomes** Decision making in pediatric neurologic physical therapy is a nuanced process that requires a delicate balance of clinical expertise, evidence-based practice, and personalized care. Children with neurologic conditions often present with a complex array of motor, cognitive, and behavioral challenges, making the therapist's role pivotal in shaping developmental trajectories. As the field advances, understanding the intricacies involved in clinical decision making becomes essential for practitioners committed to delivering effective, individualized interventions. This article explores the core components, considerations, and strategies that underpin decision making within pediatric neurologic physical therapy, highlighting its importance in fostering meaningful progress for young patients.

--- **The Foundations of Pediatric Neurologic Physical Therapy Decision Making** Pediatric neurologic physical therapy (PNPT) encompasses a broad spectrum of conditions, including cerebral palsy, spina bifida, traumatic brain injury, muscular dystrophies, and developmental delays associated with neurologic impairments. Each condition presents unique challenges, requiring therapists to employ a systematic yet flexible approach to decision making.

Evidence-Based Practice as a Cornerstone At the heart of sound decision making lies the integration of current research, clinical expertise, and patient/family preferences—collectively known as evidence-based practice (EBP). In pediatric neurology, where research may sometimes be limited or evolving, therapists must critically appraise available evidence, adapt it to individual contexts, and remain open to emerging therapies.

The Clinical Reasoning Process Effective decision making is rooted in clinical reasoning, which involves:

- Gathering comprehensive information: child's medical history, neurological status, motor skills, cognitive abilities, family dynamics, and environmental factors.
- Formulating hypotheses: understanding potential causes of motor deficits and predicting developmental potential.
- Planning interventions: selecting strategies aligned with goals, developmental level, and family priorities.
- Evaluating progress: ongoing assessment to refine interventions and ensure progress. This cyclical process demands critical thinking, flexibility, and continual reflection.

--- **Key Considerations Influencing Decision Making**

Child-Centered and Family-Inclusive Approach Children are active participants in their development, and their unique personalities, preferences, and motivations influence therapy outcomes. Equally important is engaging families as partners, respecting their insights, cultural backgrounds, and goals.

Assessing family priorities: what functional skills matter most to the child and family?

Empowering caregivers: providing education and strategies for carryover at home.

Balancing Decision Making In Pediatric Neurologic Physical Therapy ⁷ **expectations:** setting realistic, achievable goals considering the child's neurological profile.

Developmental and Neurological Factors Understanding the child's neurodevelopmental stage guides intervention choices. For instance:

- **Neuroplasticity window:** younger children often demonstrate greater capacity for neural reorganization.
- **Severity and distribution of deficits:** influences goal setting

and therapy intensity. - Associated impairments: sensory processing issues, cognitive delays, or behavioral challenges may require tailored strategies. Environmental and Contextual Elements The child's environment—home, school, community—significantly impacts therapy planning. Considerations include: - Accessibility of spaces - Availability of assistive devices - Support systems - Socioeconomic factors Therapists must adapt interventions to optimize participation within these contexts. --- The Spectrum of Decision-Making Strategies Standardized Assessments and Outcome Measures Objective data collection informs decision making by providing baseline measures and tracking progress. Tools like the Gross Motor Function Measure (GMFM), Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory (PEDI), and functional mobility assessments help quantify limitations and improvements. Goal- Directed and Functional Interventions Therapists often employ goal-oriented approaches such as: - Motor learning principles: emphasizing repetition, task specificity, and feedback. - Neurodevelopmental Treatment (NDT): focusing on facilitating normal movement patterns. - Task-specific training: practicing real-world activities for better carryover. Decisions involve choosing which strategies align best with the child's goals and developmental needs. Use of Technology and Innovative Therapies Emerging modalities like robotic-assisted gait training, virtual reality, and neuromodulation are expanding therapeutic options. Deciding when and how to incorporate these requires careful evaluation of evidence, cost-effectiveness, and suitability for the child. --- Challenges in Pediatric Neurologic Decision Making Uncertainty and Variability Children's responses to interventions can vary widely, and neurological conditions often have unpredictable courses. Therapists must navigate: - Variable progress rates - Potential for spontaneous improvement - Plateaus or regressions This uncertainty necessitates flexibility and readiness to modify plans. Balancing Short-Term Gains with Long-Term Goals Decisions must consider immediate functional improvements versus developmental trajectories. For example, choosing interventions that promote independence now without compromising future growth. Ethical and Cultural Considerations Ethical dilemmas may arise when balancing intervention intensity, resource allocation, or respecting family choices. Cultural beliefs can influence perceptions of disability and therapy goals, requiring sensitive and respectful decision making. --- Strategies to Enhance Decision-Making Efficacy Multidisciplinary Collaboration Working alongside neurologists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, psychologists, and educators ensures comprehensive understanding and coordinated care. Family-Centered Care and Shared Decision Making Involving families in goal setting and intervention planning fosters trust and adherence. Decision Making In Pediatric Neurologic Physical Therapy 8 Clear communication about potential outcomes, risks, and uncertainties is vital. Continuous Education and Reflection Staying updated with current research and reflecting on clinical experiences help refine decision-making skills. Attending workshops, reviewing case studies, and participating in peer consultations contribute to professional growth. Documentation and Monitoring Accurate documentation of assessments, interventions, and outcomes supports reflective practice and facilitates future decision making. --- The Future of Decision Making in Pediatric Neurologic Physical Therapy Advancements in neuroimaging, genomics, and personalized medicine are poised to revolutionize pediatric neurorehabilitation. Artificial intelligence and data analytics may soon offer predictive models to guide individualized therapy plans more precisely. Moreover, increasing emphasis on family-centered and participatory approaches will continue to shape decision making paradigms. --- Conclusion Decision making in pediatric neurologic physical therapy is a complex, dynamic process that intertwines scientific evidence with clinical judgment and family values. It demands a comprehensive understanding of the child's neurological profile, developmental potential, environmental influences, and family context. By adopting a thoughtful, flexible, and collaborative approach, therapists can optimize interventions, foster meaningful progress, and ultimately

enhance the quality of life for children facing neurologic challenges. As the field continues to evolve, ongoing education, research, and multidisciplinary collaboration will be essential to refine decision-making processes and ensure that every child receives the most effective, personalized care possible. pediatric neurology, physical therapy assessment, neurodevelopmental disorders, motor development, therapeutic interventions, neurological rehabilitation, pediatric neurophysiology, clinical decision-making, pediatric gait analysis, neuroplasticity in children

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Neurologic Rehabilitation, Second Edition: Neuroscience and Neuroplasticity in Physical Therapy Practice
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physical therapy or physiotherapy is an allied health profession which helps to promote maintain or restore a person's health through various methods a few of such methods are physical examination diagnosis prognosis patient education physical intervention rehabilitation disease prevention and health promotion it can be provided as a primary care treatment or alongside other medical services neurological physical therapy or neurophysiotherapy focuses on working with individuals who have a neurological disorder these can include stroke chronic back pain alzheimer's disease brain injury cerebral palsy parkinson's disease spinal cord injury etc the techniques involved in neurological physical therapy are wide ranging and often require specialized training neurophysiotherapy focuses on to relieving pain

improving balance and coordination and aiding in restoring range of movement and motion this book contains some path breaking studies in the field of neurophysiotherapy it traces the progress of this field and highlights some of its key concepts and applications those with an interest in this field would find this book helpful

a full color neuroscience text that skillfully integrates neuromuscular skeletal content covers both pediatric and adult issues beautiful full color presentation with numerous images neurorehabilitation in physical therapy delivers comprehensive coverage of the structure and function of the human nervous system it also discusses normal motor development and motor control as well as common treatment techniques in physical therapy in order to be engaging to students cases open each chapter with questions about those cases appearing throughout the chapter the text includes numerous tables flow charts illustrations and multiple choice board style review questions and is enhanced by a roster of world renowned clinical contributors

this expert guide integrates full color illustrations with neuromuscular skeletal content to help readers quickly and effectively master this topic a doody s core title for 2024 providing comprehensive coverage of the structure and function of the human nervous system neurorehabilitation in physical therapy discusses normal motor development and motor control as well as common treatment techniques in physical therapy in order to help students master this subject cases open each chapter and questions about those cases appear throughout the chapter the text includes numerous tables flow charts illustrations and multiple choice board style review questions and is enhanced by a roster of world renowned clinical contributors

physical therapy services may be provided alongside or in conjunction with other medical services they are performed by physical therapists known as physiotherapists in many countries with the help of other medical professionals this book consists of 12 chapters written by several professionals from different parts of the world the book covers different subjects such as the effects of physical therapy motor imagery neuroscience based rehabilitation for neurological patients and applications of robotics for stroke and cerebral palsy we hope that this book will open up new directions for physical therapists in the field of neurological physical therapy

this new book places increased emphasis on the clinical decision making process this state of the art book is complete with thoroughly revised chapters to provide a framework for practice and to include case studies illustrating best practice in terms of measures objectives for outcomes and strategies for application

heres the first textbook of neurologic techniques specifically written for physical therapy assistants the first section covers the basic structure and function of the nervous system normal motor development motor control and motor learning pathophysiology common treatment interventions and techniques and the role of the physical therapy assistant in clinical practice sections two and three present techniques for working with adults and children with neurologic disorders and trauma case studies in soap format and critical thinking questions prepare students for clinical decision making an abundance of detailed illustrations demonstrate

positioning movement facilitation handling cuing and patient exercises information is presented in a consistent user friendly format review questions help readers build their mastery of the material

now completely updated with the latest information on both adult and pediatric patients this comprehensive book provides a link between the pathophysiology of neurologic deficits and possible rehabilitation interventions for improving movement outcomes it introduces the structure and function of the nervous system and describes normal motor development motor control and motor learning pathophysiology of the nervous system and common treatment techniques used in physical therapy practice this edition also features updated terminology from the apta s guide to physical therapist practice as well as new chapters on proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation pnf and other neurological conditions seen in the adult helpful learning aids and abundant illustrations highlight key concepts and help readers quickly master the material helpful learning aids such as objectives tables illustrated intervention boxes and review questions reinforce important facts and concepts review questions at the end of each chapter allow readers to test their understanding of the material 700 illustrations clearly depict procedures discussed in the text and clarify descriptions of anatomy physiology evaluation pathology and treatment background information is provided for interventions that can be used in the rehabilitation of adults and children promoting a complete understanding of techniques careful documentation uses current outcomes based research case histories include subjective and objective observation assessment planning and critical decision making components current language of the apta s guide to physical therapist practice 2nd edition is used throughout aligning all information with best practices put forth by the apta a new chapter on proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation pnf describes how these techniques can be used to improve performance of functional tasks by increasing strength flexibility and range of motion

master the role of the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in neurologic rehabilitation neurologic interventions for physical therapy 3rd edition helps you develop skills in the treatment interventions needed to improve the function of patients with neurologic deficits it provides a solid foundation in neuroanatomy motor control and motor development and offers clear how to guidelines to rehabilitation procedures case studies help you follow best practices for the treatment of children and adults with neuromuscular impairments caused by events such as spinal cord injuries cerebral palsy and traumatic brain injuries written by physical therapy experts suzanne tink martin and mary kessler this market leading text will help you prepare for the neurological portion of the pta certification exam and begin a successful career in physical therapy practice comprehensive coverage of neurologic rehabilitation explores concepts in neuroanatomy motor control and motor learning motor development and evidence based treatment of adults and children with neuromuscular impairments over 700 photos and drawings clarify concepts show anatomy physiology evaluation and pathology and depict the most current rehabilitation procedures and technology case studies demonstrate the patient examination and treatment process and show how to achieve consistency in documentation proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation chapter describes how pnf can be used to improve a patient s performance of functional tasks by increasing strength flexibility and range of motion key to the treatment of individuals post stroke review questions are included at the end of each chapter with answers at the back of the book illustrated step by step intervention boxes tables and charts highlight important information and make it easy to find instructions quickly use of language of the apta guide to physical therapist practice ensures that you

understand and comply with best practices recommended by the apta new photographs of interventions and equipment reflect the most current rehabilitation procedures and technology updated study resources on the evolve companion website include an intervention collection study tips and additional review questions and interactive case studies

the second edition of the neurological physiotherapy pocketbook is the only book for physiotherapists that provides essential evidence based information in a unique and easy to use format applicable to clinical settings written by new international editors and contributors this pocketbook provides quick and easy access to essential clinical information pocketbook size for when out on clinical placement or working in clinical practice revised and brand new chapters on neurological rehabilitation and essential components concentrates on the six most common conditions including stroke traumatic brain and spinal cord injury key messages highlighted for assessment treatment and measurement of the most common neurological conditions expands guiding principles of neurological rehabilitation contains completely revised chapters on essential components concentrates on six most common conditions stroke traumatic brain injury spinal cord injury multiple sclerosis parkinson s and guillain barré syndrome

the third edition of this popular textbook formerly physical management in neurological rehabilitation and now renamed physical management for neurological conditions maintains its scientific and research base with extensive use of references and case studies it is the only book for physiotherapists that offers a comprehensive overview of the basic principles of neurological rehabilitation specific neurological neuromuscular conditions and the related physiotherapy treatment approaches used important areas which feature throughout are discussed in relation to the different neurological conditions and include a non prescriptive multidisciplinary problem solving approach to patient management involvement of the patient and carer in goal setting and decision making client centred practice use of outcome measures to evaluate the effects of treatment in everyday practice use of case studies to illustrate clinical practice scientific evidence of treatment effectiveness additional specialist editor dr emma stack refined content but with the inclusion of 4 brand new chapters an introductory chapter on rehabilitation in practice one on respiratory management and two covering self management and falls under the section entitled skill acquisition and learning 11 new expert contributors join the reduced contributor team of 31

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your score chapter ending multiple choice questions test your knowledge of specific topics each chapter opens with high yield terms to learn and concludes with a checklist of what you should know or be able to do upon completing the chapter color highlighted summary tables encapsulate important information making it easy to study and remember a practice exam with 100 questions logical systems based chapter coverage plus special topics such as geriatrics and pediatrics

this is a pageburst digital textbook including everything from basic theories to the latest breakthroughs in screening treatments diagnosis and interventions neurological rehabilitation 5th edition is the classic neurology book for therapy students and clinicians alike the book takes a problem solving approach to the therapeutic management of movement limitations quality of life and more with an emphasis on real world problem solving case studies in every chapter show the application of concepts presented the text also details best practices put forth by the apta and other leading physical therapy organizations includes all terminology information and practices consistent with the guide to physical therapy practice references best practices from the beginning to the end of a patients care with information from the most evidence based research includes in depth coverage with illustrations case studies and examples to make it easier to understand complex information applies concepts with case studies featured in each chapter teaching problem solving with real world examples covers non conventional approaches to neurological interventions such as the movement approach energy approach and physical body system approaches four new chapters highlight important topics on movement and development across the lifespan health and wellness documentation and cardiopulmonary interaction not often found in one complete resource highlights hot button topics in physical therapy including neurological disorders and application issues such as poor vision pelvic floor dysfunction and pain a complete revision of the chapters provides the most current information and research

pocketbook of neurological physiotherapy is designed for working with people with neurological problems in any clinical setting written by a team of expert contributors it offers an international perspective on core concepts irrespective of philosophical frameworks or health care systems rapid access to essential information is contained in one concise volume providing expert knowledge and advice at your fingertips this pocketbook is a valuable guide to evidence based practice for student physiotherapists and their teachers as well as qualified clinicians background knowledge including common neurological conditions neural plasticity and common motor impairments and their impact on activity clinical decision making including assessment and treatment of the acute patient before and during stabilisation the acute patient with potential for recovery and the patient with degenerative disease respiratory communication cognitive and orthotic management medical investigations and drug treatments a glossary of terms and abbreviations

selected for doody s core titles 2024 in physical therapy this comprehensive text examines what it takes to progress toward and ultimately become an expert in physical therapy it explores multiple dimensions of expertise how expert practitioners develop what knowledge they use where they acquire that knowledge how they think and reason how they make decisions and how they perform in practice to demonstrate what it takes to progress and ultimately become an expert in physical therapy introduces the four core concepts that comprise the model of expertise knowledge clinical reasoning movement and virtue a data collection tools appendix provides a step by step description of the process that the authors used to select interview and collect data from the experts in each case study to

demonstrates the use of critical thinking and research based analysis contributed chapters on expert practice and clinical outcomes clinical reasoning and expert practice and implications for practice implications for practice chapter covers the implementation and results of this model of expertise in a staff development program a postscript the voices of our experts 10 years later where clinicians share the evolution of their expertise two chapters on inquiry into expertise and implications for doctoral level education in physical therapy provide insights into the practical application of the core concepts of the physical therapy model of expertise and facilitate the continued development of expertise in physical therapy

intended for use by all physiotherapists working in the neurological field this book shows how to analyze patient problems and select appropriate therapies for each situation the emphasis is therefore on identification of symptoms in relation to the resultant impairment of movement rather than on the detailed description of neurological conditions whilst it is important to understand the disease process of for example multiple sclerosis the medical diagnosis has little bearing on the problems arising in terms of functional impairment

this essential core textbook for the early phase of a physical therapy program takes a global approach to the profession focusing on both practice specialties as well as practice settings populations served and essential issues such as specialization relations with complementary health professionals and education features uses terminology based on apta s new guide to physical therapist practice examines special audiences including pediatric geriatric orthopedic and neurologic written by a single author for a uniform and cohesive presentation includes the full text of the model practice act for physical therapy

janet carr and roberta shepherd head up a new team of eminent authors for the second edition of this definitive text on neurological physiotherapy in the first edition the authors described a model of neurological rehabilitation for individuals with motor dysfunction based on scientific research in the areas of neuromuscular control biomechanics motor skill learning and the link between cognition and action together with developments in pathology and adaptation the new edition continues to advance this model while identifying and incorporating the many advances that have occurred in the last decade in the understanding and treatment of adults with neurological conditions whether caused by accident or disease among these advances is the knowledge that the brain retains a plastic potential to reorganize even in old and or lesioned brains and that neural plasticity can be influenced by task related mental and physical practice in a stimulating environment there is also an increasing body of knowledge related to the musculoskeletal system s adaptability and the need to prevent length and stiffness related changes in muscle contractility together with loss of aerobic fitness and endurance there is an expanding body of clinical research that appears to support the model provided here the training guidelines outlined in neurological rehabilitation are based on biomechanical constructs and motor relearning research applied to enhance brain reorganization and muscle contractility and encourage functional recovery of the patient it connects science and clinical practice enabling students and practitioners to develop their knowledge and use new clinical methods based on modern scientific understanding all chapters have been revised some with the collaboration of five specialists who are engaged in high level scientific research and clinical practice biomechanical models are presented to provide a framework for action specific training and exercise to improve performance clinical guidelines are science and evidence based emphasis is on new approaches to

the delivery of neurological rehabilitation that increase the time spent in mental and physical activity and the intensity of practice and exercise up to date referencing

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