

William Boissonnault

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Your Instructor

Dr. Boissonnault is Executive Vice President of Professional Affairs of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Current work

He was a founding member of and Curriculum Director for the University of Wisconsin Hospital/Clinics and Meriter Hospital Orthopedic Physical Therapy Clinical Residency Program. Dr. Boissonnault holds multiple adjunct physical therapy faculty positions and presents nationally and internationally, teaching differential diagnosis, diagnostic imaging, and communication skills.

Background

He edited *Primary Care for the Physical Therapist; Examination and Triage*, (Elsevier Saunders) and co-edited *Pathology: Implications for the Physical Therapist I* (Saunders). He has multiple journal publications related to differential diagnosis and physical therapist practice. Dr. Boissonnault is past-president of the Foundation for Physical Therapy and the Orthopaedic Section of the APTA. In addition, he chaired the APTA Manipulation Legislative Task Force and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists Practice Committee.

The patient you're seeing for low back, hip, or neck pain –

Any reason to be suspicious of occult cancer or infection or a fracture?

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Compare and contrast the therapist's role and responsibilities to that of a physician in relation to the differential diagnosis/medical screening process.
- Integrate medical screening principles into an efficient and effective patient examination scheme.
- Evaluate history and physical examination findings (red flags), and decide whether communication with a physician is warranted regarding a patient's health status, and indications for imaging.
- Employ strategies to facilitate professional communication between therapist and physician and therapist and patient; including when, how, and what to communicate as part of a patient referral.
- Describe the risk factors, pathogenesis, and clinical manifestations of selected medical conditions and medications representing the various body systems.
- Effectively pursue additional information associated with differential diagnosis by the therapist.

Identifying Red Flags

A proposed examination scheme designed to promote efficient and effective collection of patient red flag findings will provide the structure for our discussions. Professional communication with patients and medical doctors will also be a central theme throughout the seminar.

Sample patient cases for discussion:

- **Susan** states she is having some unusual neck pain. She has spent hours and hours working at a Potter's wheel the past 2-3 weeks. She is wondering if her neck posture during pottery-making could be causing her neck pain.
- **Jeremiah** describes L chest wall pain-started 6 months ago while doing some "heavy lawn mowing"- "think I pulled a muscle". He has been improving slowly-noting he can swim and mow the grass pain free if he tapes his chest. He wants to know "how much longer will it take for this too heal, and also asks is there any chance this could be related to my heart?"

Does your patient need an urgent referral?
Recommendation to start regular physical therapy? No action at all?

What's the best first question to ask when facing real-life scenarios?



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This course is approved for 0.65 CEUs. We provide CEUs for PTs only. Registration deadline is January 26, 2018.

Medical Screening for Physical Therapists



Course Schedule

8:30-9am	Registration
9-9:30am	Course Introduction
9:30-10:30am	Screening for Pathological & Stress Fractures
10:30-10:45am	Break
10:45-12pm	Differential Diagnosis of Joint Pain
12-1pm	Lunch
1-2:30pm	Differential Diagnosis of Back Pain
2:30-3pm	Differential Diagnosis of Limb Pain
3-3:15pm	Break
3:15-4pm	Differential Diagnosis of Limb Pain (continued)
4-4:30pm	Screening for Skin Lesions
4:30-5pm	Patient Cases & Course Wrap-up

February 3, 2018

8am - 5pm

UCSF Parnassus
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The Sherlock Holmes Approach

An important element of clinical decision making for therapists is recognizing red flag warning signs that a patient should see a medical doctor. This seminar will help prepare the therapist to assume the role of an interdependent practitioner working within a collaborative medical model.