World Physiotherapy
Europe region

Professional Implications of Sustainable Healthcare – A guide to the slides

Professional Practice Working Group (PPWG)

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PROFESSIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE – A GUIDE TO THE SLIDES

Europe Region

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A recommendation approved by the membership at the 2024 General Meeting included exploring the professional implications of Sustainable Health Care in the Europe Region. The Professional Practice Working Group (PPWG) subsequently created a power point collection of slides to support discussion and education around the harmonisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within physiotherapy.

The content draws on current evidence, global frameworks (such as the SDGs and Earth Overshoot Day), and best practices in sustainable healthcare.

Five core principles of sustainable clinical practice are highlighted:

- Prevention
- Patient Empowerment and Self-care
- Lean Service Delivery
- Low Carbon Alternatives, and
- Efficient Resource Use.

Each principle is supported by practical examples and evidence from physiotherapy practice, such as falls prevention, pelvic health, pain management, and operational resource use, to illustrate how physiotherapists can implement sustainable practices in daily clinical work.
They are a versatile resource for education, advocacy, and organisational improvement, supporting the physiotherapy community's contribution to a more sustainable healthcare future. The collection is designed for use as a set or as individual slides to suit the circumstance.

Opportunities for Use

The slides provide multiple opportunities for use by Member Organisations.

1. Education – workshops, seminars, or continuing professional development sessions to raise awareness of how physiotherapists contribute to sustainable practice.
2. Healthcare / Settings / Organisational Change – to provide a framework for reviewing and improving practices, policies, and resource management.
3. Curriculum Integration - to include in entry-level physiotherapy programmes, supporting the integration of sustainability into health education.
4. Advocacy and Leadership – to encourage physiotherapists to take a leadership role in promoting sustainable healthcare, both within their teams and in broader health system discussions.
5. Patient and Community Engagement – for highlighting prevention, empowerment and active transport, the materials can be adapted for patient education and community outreach initiatives.

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