Pediatric Orthopedics:
Advancing Your Knowledge to Maximize Outcomes

Leah Northcutt, PT, DPT, PCS

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Faculty

Leah Northcutt, PT, DPT, PCS, is a Physical Therapist at Texas Children's Hospital - The Woodlands. She has worked in the field of pediatric physical therapy for more than 12 years, with the majority of her career focused in pediatric orthopedics before entering the pelvic health field in 2022. Leah is board-certified in pediatric physical therapy. She sees patients with a variety of diagnoses including orthopedic injuries, acute or chronic neuromuscular problems, genetic disorders, developmental delay, head injuries, spinal cord injuries and many others.

About this Live Webinar

Whether you want to enhance your knowledge in pediatric orthopedics or refine your skills in managing complex cases, this course provides tools and strategies within a practical framework, so your clinical decision-making positively impacts clients' lives. Starting with a sturdy foundation of the expected course from diagnosis through functional outcomes, participants will expand and build a framework with higher level reasoning and problem solving to nimbly respond to complex scenarios. Make sense of evaluative data in light of both expected and less expected patient, medical or surgical variables. Navigate nuances that impact patient safety, rate of progress and functional participation. Explore evidence-based treatment and intervention strategies that align with the complex needs of pediatric orthopedic patients. Prioritize your approach based on pre- or post-operative status and medical management. Zero in on pertinent surgical information, and delve into the intricacies of post-operative care, especially when a patient isn't progressing as anticipated. Apply acquired knowledge and clinical decision-making in a variety of case scenarios that you can apply to your own complex orthopedic patients.

Objectives

1. Identify at least 3 potential setbacks or challenges that occur in the course of pediatric orthopedic conditions.
2. Integrate evaluation findings and medical or surgical status into a safe and effective intervention plan.
3. Recognize opportunities for advocacy and collaboration with patient's surgical and medical care team.
4. Choose evidence-based interventions for postoperative care for children who have undergone orthopedic surgery.
5. Analyze complex orthopedic case studies for safe and appropriate interventions and functional outcomes.
6. Synthesize evaluation and progress monitoring data with a child's surgical/medical status to address immediate post-operative needs and longer-term developmental goals for children with treatment complications.

Audience

This course is appropriate for OTs, OTAs, PTs and PTAs working with pediatric, birth-3, early intervention and school-aged (3-21) populations in acute care, pediatric ICU, home care, outpatient, orthopedic, neurology, rehab and school settings.

Help your patients achieve better outcomes.

Schedule – Day 1   9:40 am - 5:00 pm EST (US)

9:40-10:00   Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens

DAY 1: Developing a picture of pediatric orthopedics, from ideal and expected scenarios to more realistic, unexpected and complex presentations.

10:00-11:00   Common Orthopedic Diagnoses and Surgeries- How to know what I don't know? Treatment precautions, safety, frequency, duration and working towards appropriate goals.

11:00-11:15   BREAK

11:15-12:00   Finding evidence based and practical resources for knowledge acquisition of orthopedic conditions that fit within fast-paced clinical settings.

12:00-1:00   Matching interventions with expected functional outcomes for varied orthopedic diagnoses, including cerebral palsy, osteogenesis imperfecta, fractures, and more.

1:00-1:30   LUNCH

1:30-2:30   Common Pitfalls and Easily Missed Nuances When Managing the Patient with Complex Orthopedic Needs. Being intentional and alert to setbacks, new information, or complications that impact treatment.

2:30-3:30   Advancing Collaborative Care through Meaningful Communication. Advocating for your patients by talking to the right providers, at the right times.

3:30-3:45   BREAK

3:45-4:45   I don't see much of this diagnosis, does it matter? How to approach lower incidence diagnoses and remain evidence-based in a fast-paced clinical setting.

4:45-5:00   **Pulling it all Together**: Our picture of pediatric orthopedics is getting more intricate, from ideal and expected scenarios to more complex, realistic presentations.

Schedule – Day 2   9:40 am - 5:00 pm EST (US)

9:40-10:00   Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens

DAY 2: Complexity in Action: Following a framework to best manage pediatric orthopedic patients with realistic presentations.

10:00-11:00   **Case Study #1: Postoperative Care of Child with CP Undergoing SEMLS.** Making the best clinical decisions based on a variety of factors while incorporating precautions, indications, and surgical understanding.

11:00-12:00   **Case Study #2: Rehabilitation of a Child after a Femur Fracture with a Persistent Gait Deviation.** Navigating nuances and pitfalls that get in the way of rehabilitation and recovery.

12:00-12:15   BREAK

12:15-1:15   **Case Study #3: Navigating Care of a Child with a Rare Diagnosis.** Applying knowledge of medical and surgical status in the context of child development, participation, function and team collaboration during the therapeutic process.

1:15-1:45   LUNCH

1:45-3:00   **Case Study #4: Medically Complex Patient Undergoing Bony Hip Surgery with Multiple Complications and a Fixed Knee Flexion Contracture.** Complex clinical reasoning for evaluation, intervention and team collaboration.

3:00-3:15   BREAK

3:15-4:30   **Case Study #5: An infant with Gross Motor Delay and Atypical Range of Motion.** Clinical reasoning in a time when development is expected to be rapidly changing. Zooming in on the most pertinent data with a readiness for flexibility.

4:30-5:00   **Pulling it all Together**

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This course meets the criteria for 12 contact hours (1.2 CEUs) Intermediate Level.

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This course can be used toward your NBCOT renewal requirements for 12 units.

Approved provider of the FL Board of Occupational Therapy-CE Broker – 14 hrs. This course meets the approval of the TX Board of OT Examiners.

Application has been made to the FL Physical Therapy Association for 14 continuing education contact hours.

Application has been made to the MD Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.

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12 hours of this course qualify towards the discipline-specific hours for the 20-hour requirement for NDTA re-certification. They do NOT qualify towards the 8-hour NDTA Instructor requirement for re-certification.

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WEBINAR DATES AND TIMES

September 5 and 6, 2025
9:40 am EST • 8:40 am CST • 7:40 am MST • 6:40 am PST (US)

Registration is for both sessions. Log-in instructions and course materials will be emailed/added to your ERI account 5-7 days prior to the webinar.

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WEBINAR: Pediatric Orthopedics: Advancing Your Knowledge to Maximize Outcomes/Leah Northcutt

❑ **September 5 and 6, 2025**

Course Registration Form

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