## Kortney Smith, PT, DPT

**Doctoral Degree in** Physical Therapy, Oakland University, 2016

## Member of:

- **APTA**
- **MPTA**

## **Special Interests:**

- **Pediatric Orthopedics**
- **Orthopedic Manual** Therapy
- Sports-related injuries
- Lumbar & cervical conditions
- Post-operative joint replacement

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Even as a high school student, Kortney Smith, PT, DPT, wanted to be a physical therapist. A severe injury to her arm sent her to physical therapy for six months. Because of the impact the physical therapist made on her, Kortney decided to make physical therapy her career. She started as a technician in 2011 and worked in the field while she attended college. She received her doctoral degree in physical therapy from Oakland University in 2016.

Her special interests include treating pediatric orthopedic conditions, sportsrelated injuries, lumbar and cervical conditions, and post-operative joint replacement. During her time as a student, Kortney was able to learn several orthopedic manual therapy techniques, which she feels has given her a good base of knowledge in addition to her degree. Her future goal is to continue her education by attending professional physical therapy courses and obtaining field-specific certifications. She also hopes to be an instructor. "I want to be able to teach and guide physical therapy students just as my instructors did for me," said Kortney.

In her practice, Kortney considers making her patients feel like they are number one her main priority. "I enjoy talking to patients and learning about their everyday lives. I think it helps to put the best plan of care together," says Kortney. One of her favorite patient success stories is a patient she treated who had bilateral partial knee replacements and was very determined to get back to work teaching her special education students. "She was always talking about how she missed her kids and wanted to get back to teaching them. We did everything we could to get her back to work. By the time she was discharged, she could do everything she wanted to do and was even able to take her students on a ski trip!" stated Kortney.

When you ask Kortney what she likes about being a physical therapist, she will tell you, "I enjoy helping people. It is really rewarding to have people come in with pain or difficulties and leave feeling pain-free and able to do the things they love to do again."

Kortney practices out of Advanced Physical Therapy Center's Davison location. "I am excited to join the team! Everyone here is so passionate about their job and helping patients get better," said Kortney. She is originally from Capac, but now lives in Lapeer with her two furry babies (dogs), Asher and Phoenix. She is engaged to her wonderful fiancé, Jesse, and they plan on marrying in the fall of 2017. In her spare time, she visits the gym three to five times a week and enjoys the outdoors, gardening, bonfires, shopping, cooking,

