

481—801.1(148A,272C) Code of ethics for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants.

801.1(1) Physical therapy. The practice of physical therapy shall minimally consist of:

- a.* Interpreting all referrals;
- b.* Evaluating each patient;
- c.* Identifying and documenting individual patient's problems and goals;
- d.* Establishing and documenting a plan of care;
- e.* Providing appropriate treatment;
- f.* Determining the appropriate portions of the treatment program to be delegated to assistive personnel;
- g.* Appropriately supervising individuals as described in rule 481—801.4(272C);
- h.* Providing timely patient reevaluation;
- i.* Maintaining timely and adequate patient records of all physical therapy activity and patient responses consistent with the standards found in rule 481—801.2(147).

801.1(2) A physical therapist shall:

- a.* Not practice outside the scope of the license;
- b.* Inform a referring practitioner when any requested treatment procedure is inadvisable or contraindicated and shall refuse to carry out such orders;
- c.* Not continue treatment beyond the point of possible benefit to the patient or treat a patient more frequently than necessary to obtain maximum therapeutic effect;
- d.* Not directly or indirectly request, receive, or participate in the dividing, transferring, assigning, rebating, or refunding of an unearned fee;
- e.* Not profit by means of credit or other valuable consideration as an unearned commission, discount, or gratuity in connection with the furnishing of physical therapy services;
- f.* Not obtain third-party payment through fraudulent means. Third-party payers include, but are not limited to, insurance companies and government reimbursement programs. Obtaining payment through fraudulent means includes but is not limited to:
 - (1) Reporting incorrect treatment dates for the purpose of obtaining payment;
 - (2) Reporting charges for services not rendered;
 - (3) Incorrectly reporting services rendered for the purpose of obtaining payment that is greater than that to which the licensee is entitled; or
 - (4) Aiding a patient in fraudulently obtaining payment from a third-party payer;
- g.* Not exercise undue influence on patients to purchase equipment, products, or supplies from a company in which the physical therapist owns stock or has any other direct or indirect financial interest;
- h.* Not permit another person to use the therapist's license for any purpose;
- i.* Not verbally or physically abuse a patient or client;
- j.* Not engage in sexual misconduct. Sexual misconduct includes the following:
 - (1) Engaging in or soliciting a sexual relationship, whether consensual or nonconsensual, with a patient or client;
 - (2) Making sexual advances, requesting sexual favors, or engaging in other verbal conduct or physical contact of a sexual nature with a patient or client;
- k.* Adequately supervise personnel in accordance with the standards for supervision found in rule 481—801.4(272C);
- l.* Assist in identifying a professionally qualified licensed practitioner to perform the service, in the event that the physical therapist does not possess the skill to evaluate a patient, plan the treatment program, or carry out the treatment.

801.1(3) Physical therapist assistants. A physical therapist assistant shall:

- a.* Not practice outside the scope of the license;
- b.* Not obtain third-party payment through fraudulent means. Third-party payers include but are not limited to insurance companies and government reimbursement programs. Obtaining payment through fraudulent means includes but is not limited to:
 - (1) Reporting incorrect treatment dates for the purpose of obtaining payment;
 - (2) Reporting charges for services not rendered;

- (3) Incorrectly reporting services rendered for the purpose of obtaining payment that is greater than that to which the licensee is entitled; or
- (4) Aiding a patient in fraudulently obtaining payment from a third-party payer;
 - c. Not exercise undue influence on patients to purchase equipment, products, or supplies from a company in which the physical therapist assistant owns stock or has any other direct or indirect financial interest;
 - d. Not permit another person to use the physical therapist's or physical therapist assistant's license for any purpose;
 - e. Not verbally or physically abuse a patient or client;
 - f. Not engage in sexual misconduct. Sexual misconduct includes the following:
 - (1) Engaging in or soliciting a sexual relationship, whether consensual or nonconsensual, with a patient or client; and
 - (2) Making sexual advances, requesting sexual favors, or engaging in other verbal conduct or physical contact of a sexual nature with a patient or client;
 - g. Work only when supervised by a physical therapist and in accordance with rule 481—801.4(272C). If the available supervision does not meet the standards in rule 481—801.4(272C), the physical therapist assistant shall refuse to administer treatment;
 - h. Inform the delegating physical therapist when the physical therapist assistant does not possess the skills or knowledge to perform the delegated tasks, and refuse to perform the delegated tasks;
 - i. Sign the physical therapy treatment record to indicate that the physical therapy services were provided in accordance with the rules and regulations for practicing as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant.

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