OPPOSITION TO PHYSICIAN OWNERSHIP OF PHYSICAL THERAPIST SERVICES AND SELF-REFERRAL BY PHYSICIANS 

HOD P06-19-16-46 [Initial: HOD P06-03-27-25;] [Previously Titled: Opposition to Physician Ownership of Physical Therapy Services] [Position]

Whereas, The American Physical Therapy Association advocates for a healthy society, for patient and client engagement in health services, and for direct access to physical therapist services;

Whereas, Physical therapists and physicians collaboratively provide patient-centered services in practice models that may include mutual referral, co-management, and consultation;

Whereas, Physician self-referral to physical therapist services in which an ownership interest by the physician is an avoidable conflict of interest that may restrain patient choice in services;

Whereas, Federal law prohibits, with some exceptions, physician self-referral for various designated health services¹;

Whereas, Evidence suggests that there is greater cost per patient encounter and for the entire episode of care in self-referral situations²; and

Whereas, Evidence also suggests that patients in self-referral situations receive more passive treatment that is performed by persons not licensed as physical therapists and that non-self-referred physical therapist services include more active, hands-on, and one-to-one services that promote greater patient independence and a return to performing routine activities without pain³;

Resolved, That the American Physical Therapy Association opposes ownership of and self-referral to physical therapist services by physicians, and supports federal and state laws and regulations that prohibit physician ownership of physical therapist services.

REFERENCES


Explanation of Reference Numbers:

HOD P00-00-00-00 stands for House of Delegates/month/year/page/vote in the House of Delegates minutes; the "P" indicates that it is a position (see below). For example, HOD P06-17-05-04 means that this position can be found in the June 2017 House of Delegates minutes on Page 5 and that it was Vote 4.