



# INTEGRITY IN PRACTICE

## OUR MISSION

The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) has launched Integrity in Practice, a comprehensive campaign to promote high quality of care and help combat fraud, waste, and abuse within the health care system. The campaign helps physical therapists navigate complex regulations and payment systems by making tools and resources available to encourage and promote evidence-based practice; ethics; professionalism; prevention of fraud, waste, and abuse; and more.

As part of the Integrity in Practice campaign, APTA has developed a multipronged approach to promote compliance with documentation, billing, coverage, and other requirements. APTA is committed to protecting and preserving resources within the health care system through several initiatives.

APTA is also partnering with associations, academic programs, state licensing boards, and private payers to root out fraud, waste, and abuse. As the association of a diverse profession, with providers in a variety of health care settings, APTA recognizes the need to work with other organizations to reach all physical therapy providers regardless of setting and experience.

## CHOOSING WISELY



An initiative of the ABIM Foundation

APTA has partnered with the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Foundation's Choosing Wisely® campaign to provide specific, evidence-based recommendations that encourage both patients and physical therapists to make wise decisions about the most appropriate care. The Choosing Wisely campaign asks providers to identify tests or procedures commonly used in their field whose necessity should be questioned and discussed.

APTA is the first nonphysician group in Choosing Wisely, joining more than 50 medical specialty societies that have produced a list of 5 things members of their profession and patients should question.

## PHYSICAL THERAPY OUTCOMES REGISTRY



**PHYSICAL THERAPY  
OUTCOMES REGISTRY**

APTA is launching the Physical Therapy Outcomes Registry to provide a user-friendly system for collecting uniform data on patient and client outcomes. The data collected will help guide best practices, help providers meet regulatory reporting requirements, generate benchmarking reports, and help shape payment policy.

APTA has partnered with Quintiles Outcome to develop the registry. Quintiles has a history of designing patient registries, including working with and submitting data to CMS and other payers. The registry is in pilot testing, scheduled to launch January 1, 2015, and physical therapists from all settings will be eligible to participate.

## RESOURCES TO PREVENT FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE

As part of the Integrity in Practice campaign, APTA has also published new resources to help physical therapists comply with relevant laws and regulations. The first of these documents, *Preventing Fraud, Abuse, and Waste: A Primer for Physical Therapists*, is a free guide that examines not only relevant laws and regulations but the physical therapist's relationship with payers, referral sources, and patients. The second document, a *Consensus Statement on Clinical Judgment in Health Care Settings*, was developed in coordination with the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the American Occupational Therapy Association. The statement underscores the importance of clinical judgment in achieving optimum patient care, provides examples of unacceptable practices that interfere with clinical judgment, and emphasizes the importance of knowing all rules and regulations, following proper evaluation and treatment protocols, and completing all documentation. Clinicians are encouraged to take action if they encounter a billing process or practice that may be suspect and are provided with possible steps to take in response to employer policies or practices that conflict with clinical judgment.

## COMPLIANCE SEMINARS

APTA has created a series of webinars and informational articles for its members designed to ensure compliance and help prevent fraud, waste and abuse. This series helps members understand relevant laws, regulations, and reporting requirements when submitting patient documentation, while allowing physical therapists to use their clinical judgment to provide patients with appropriate services.

## CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

APTA is working with its specialty sections to develop clinical practice guidelines (CPG). These guidelines will assist with practitioner and patient decisions about appropriate health care for specific clinical conditions, and better enable physical therapists to consistently use best practices to improve the quality of life of their patients and clients. Among the 13 topics currently identified for clinical practice guidelines are falls, deep vein thrombosis, vestibular neuritis, carpal tunnel syndrome, lymphedema, and pediatric acute lymphoblastic leukemia. The development of CPGs will enable the translation of research into physical therapist practice.

## CONTACT INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

**Justin Moore**  
VP, Public Policy,  
Practice and  
Professional Affairs

justinmoore@apta.org  
703/706-3162

**Michael Matlack**  
Director, Grassroots  
and Political Affairs

michaelmatlack@apta.org  
703/706-3163

**Monica Massaro**  
Sr. Congressional  
Affairs Specialist  
Federal Government Affairs

monicamassaro@apta.org  
703/706-3156

**Mandy Frohlich**  
Senior Director,  
Government Affairs

mandyfrohlich@apta.org  
703/706-8548

**Adnan Jalil**  
Lead Congressional  
Affairs Specialist  
Federal Government Affairs

adnanjalil@apta.org  
703/706-3391

**Michael Hurlbut**  
Sr. Congressional  
Affairs Specialist  
Federal Government Affairs

michaelhurlbut@apta.org  
703/706-3160



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