

SCPT Practice Guideline #20 Incentive Payment Systems

Background

Paragraph 18 of the Code of Ethics contained in The SCPT Regulatory Bylaws provides as follows:

Physical therapists shall ensure that their professional judgment and integrity are not compromised by motives of profit.

A physical therapist's professional duty is owed to the client, regardless of who pays for the physical therapy services.

Practice Guidelines

1. A physical therapist must make decisions regarding a client in the client's best interest and with the client's full knowledge.
2. A physical therapist should ensure that no conflict of interest arises when a physical therapist's actions or decisions may reasonably be perceived to be motivated and/or influenced by the potential for financial gain or to satisfy guidelines established by third party payers.
3. The physical therapist must critically evaluate any third party incentive payment program to ensure that it is not based purely on profit and/or length of stay desired by the third party payer.