



Restore Physician Rights to Employ Physical Therapists

Patient Choice. Patient Safety. Lower Costs.

Correct The Policy That Isn't Serving The Interests of Patients!

Patient Choice

- In 48 other states patients have the right to receive physical therapy in their physician's office, from an employee of their treating physician and who works at their physician's direction.
- Physician employment of physical therapy services is protected by Federal self referral Stark Laws, and anti-kickback laws and regulations and specifically allowed by Medicare. Patient Choice legislation would simply make our laws consistent with federal laws, all of our surrounding states and nearly everyone else.
- The current law that comes between the doctor and the patient results in fragmented care, less patient compliance and greater patient inconvenience.

Patient Safety

- Forced fragmentation of therapy requires physicians to utilize therapists with whom they have no quality control or previous relationship. What is working in one setting or community is not necessarily working for patients in another.
- Physicians are unable to effectively monitor the provision of therapy services for their patients when this backwards policy prohibits their direct oversight.
- Physicians are inhibited in their ability to modify or discontinue original prescriptions when therapy is removed from their oversight.
- The provision of physical therapy is an integral part of the practice of orthopaedic surgery. Current law removes quality controls and effective physician oversight.

Lower Costs

- According to the Center of Medicare and Medicaid Services patients can expect to spend on average \$349.07 more for the same therapy treatment when receiving care in a Private Physical Therapy Practice versus receiving therapy in their physician's office.
- South Carolina law currently forces patients to use a more expensive setting to receive therapy increasing both out-of-pocket expenses and insurance costs.
- Therapy costs continue to expand at a significant rate – 6.6% in 2007 – and the largest source of expansion is from Private Practicing Physical Therapists.

Patients deserve the right to choose their provider...protect their safety....control their costs.

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