

**HACKETTSTOWN MEDICAL CENTER
PHYSICAL/OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROCEDURE MANUAL
ETHICS**

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Effective Date: March, 1987

Cross Referenced:

Reviewed Date: 09/12, 03/16

Revised Date:

Policy No: 5200-1.010/5300-1.010

Origin: Physical/Occupational Therapy

Authority: Therapy Services Manager

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POLICY

Physical and Occupational Therapy personnel are directly involved with patient care and will exhibit a professional attitude toward the discharge of their duties and responsibilities.

Professional Code of Ethics outlined by the American Physical Therapy Association and the American Occupational Therapy Association shall serve as guideline for ethical conduct.

Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants should strive to apply principles of altruism, excellence, caring, ethics, respect, communication and accountability in working together with other professionals to achieve optimal health and wellness in individuals and communities.

PROCEDURE

1. The patient's safety, well-being, and the quality of their care are the prime consideration of those attending to the patient's care. Each patient will be treated with individualized attention. Administration of the appropriate therapy will be provided regardless of race, color, sex, or level of alertness.
2. All treatments to be rendered will be clearly explained to the patient and/or family member in words appropriate to their level.
3. It is extremely important to support, assure and encourage the patient during the treatment session to optimize treatment effect. This is done in a manner which is respectful of the patient's rights and wishes.
4. Therapists shall preserve the dignity and appreciate the individuality of each patient. The following are area guidelines:
 - a. Talk to the patient by name.
 - b. Allow ample time for proper delivery of care.
 - c. Answer questions relating to that care.
 - d. Properly prepare the patient to accept that care.
 - e. Recognize adverse or fearful reactions from the patient or family members present and alleviate them as necessary.
 - f. Respect the confidentiality of a patient's condition and content of their medical chart.
 - g. Respect a patient's privacy; use proper draping or hold discussions in private.

References:

<http://www.apta.org/ethicsprofessionalism/>

<http://www.aota.org/consumers/ethics/39880.aspx>