

(continued from previous page)

- Permit economic exploitation of physical therapy at the expense of patients and PTs.
- Drain re-investment out of PT profession.
- Result in higher health care costs and higher insurance costs for all.

On a different note, CMS eased requirements for private practices in that services provided by PTAs will require only “direct supervision” for Medicare coverage, which means the PT must be “in the office suite.” “The PT wouldn’t necessarily have to be in the same room to directly supervise an assistant,” Michael said. “But this doesn’t mean that assistants should treat Medicare patients without the PT’s involvement. The therapist still needs to be actively involved in the care.”

PTPN PEOPLE

Meet Our New Director of Quality Assurance



Please join us in welcoming Mitchel Kaye, PT, our new Director of Quality Assurance. Mitch oversees the following PTPN programs: Quality Assurance, Credentialing, Case Management, Utilization Management and Outcomes. He is

available to PTPN members to assist them in their compliance efforts and works with members who need assistance in complying with with PTPN requirements.

Mitch also assists PTPN’s regional offices with Quality Assurance program management through ongoing training and support, and he meets with members, physicians and payors as needed for program development and problem resolution.

Prior to joining PTPN, Mitch worked for Zenith Insurance as a reviewer/coordinator, and previously

had his own private physical therapy practice for 14 years. After receiving his physical therapy degree, Mitch worked at Los Angeles County/USC Medical Center for 7 years and then served as a physical therapy consultant and surveyor for the Los Angeles County Health Department. He has also worked as director of physical therapy and director of imaging services at a 180-bed community hospital.

Contact Mitch at 818-737-0231 or mkaye@ptpn.com in PTPN’s national offices in Calabasas.

HATS OFF

Congratulations to Walker Physical Therapy, FOTO Award Winner

The 55 glowing patient testimonials on Walker Physical Therapy’s website say it all: The therapists at the Orange, Calif., clinic are real winners at getting patients better. In fact, the clinic won a FOTO (Focus on Therapeutic Outcomes) Center of Excellence Award last year for delivering the greatest functional improvement in their patients. Among the 350 clinics in FOTO’s national database that participated, Walker PT ranked third for low back/pelvic disorders and fifth for all orthopedic disorders.

The clinic scored so well on the FOTO criteria, said Grace Walker, PT, OT, who founded her practice in 1983, because “we do a lot of hands-on mobilization and soft tissue work followed by our unique exercise program. Rather than treating just the painful part, we treat the entire body with special emphasis on the ‘core.’ We do an in-depth biomechanical analysis, a posture evaluation, and also address any deficiencies as part of the patient’s program.”

Each patient is started on Day One with a personalized, progressive home exercise program to increase strength and flexibility and reduce pain. At each visit the staff checks up on them to see if they’re doing their home exercises correctly. “I have a wonderful, optimistic team—like an extended family—who are extremely motivating for patients and able to encourage high patient compliance with our home exercise program,” says Walker.

In addition to eight physical therapists and three certified physical therapy assistants, Walker PT has 28 staff members including physical therapist assistants,

OF INTEREST

Did you know that PTPN processes over 107,000 visits each month?

ADVOCACY

PTPN's Tammy Dunn Represents PTs in Tennessee Workers' Comp Reform

When Tammy Dunn, Executive Director of PTPN Tennessee/Georgia, heard that a task force was developing a Tennessee medical fee schedule as part of a new workers' compensation reform bill (HB3531), she contacted Senator Bill Clabough to ask how she could get involved. Soon she was attending meetings of the Medical Care and Cost Containment Committee, representing the interests of physical therapists in the state, supplying needed information, and brought in the Tennessee Physical Therapy Association to make a presentation to the committee.

"The Tennessee workers' compensation system is in the process of being revamped," said Tammy, "and the role of the committee is to make fee schedule recommendations to the legislature, who will review and send to the governor for his signature by January 2005. Creating a fee schedule won't be the magic ingredient to fixing the system, because overutilization is still a problem, but at least it's a good start."

Tammy says she will continue attending committee meetings and expects to be busy revising contracts according to the new fee schedule once it goes into effect July 1, 2005.

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