

**EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2010.** For more information, go to [www.apta.org/ethics](http://www.apta.org/ethics).

## **APTA Guide for Professional Conduct**

### **Purpose**

This *Guide for Professional Conduct* (Guide) is intended to serve physical therapists in interpreting the *Code of Ethics* (Code) of the American Physical Therapy Association (Association), in matters of professional conduct. The Guide provides guidelines by which physical therapists may determine the propriety of their conduct. It is also intended to guide the professional development of physical therapist students. The Code and the Guide apply to all physical therapists. These guidelines are subject to change as the dynamics of the profession change and as new patterns of health care delivery are developed and accepted by the professional community and the public. This Guide is subject to monitoring and timely revision by the Ethics and Judicial Committee of the Association.

### **Interpreting Ethical Principles**

The interpretations expressed in this Guide reflect the opinions, decisions, and advice of the Ethics and Judicial Committee. These interpretations are intended to assist a physical therapist in applying general ethical principles to specific situations. They should not be considered inclusive of all situations that could evolve.

### **Reference to Code of Ethics**

In light of the recent amendments to the *Code of Ethics*, and in lieu of setting forth in the Guide interpretations of the *Code of Ethics*, the Ethics and Judicial Committee does hereby refer Physical Therapists to the *Code of Ethics*.

As noted in the Purpose of the Guide set forth above, this Guide is subject to change and the Ethics and Judicial Committee will monitor and timely revise this Guide when necessary and as needed.

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American Physical Therapy Association  
October 1981  
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***Please note for future reference  
that the most current version of  
the Guide for Professional  
Conduct may be accessed through  
the APTA website.***