

Senate Joint Resolution 15  
Specialty Hospital and Economic Credentialing  
“Bull Dog” Subcommittee

Patti Jo Lane PT/ATC  
Great Fall Clinic

The Great Falls Clinic is Montana’s largest physician-owned multi-specialty medical group with locations in Great Falls, Choteau, Fairfield, Helena and Butte. Currently, we have one Physical Therapy Department located on our Great Falls main campus. The Physical Therapy Department opened December of 2005 and currently has 2 Physical Therapists and 1 Physical Therapist Assistant.

**-The role of payments from Medicare/Medicaid in determining whether PTs work in an individual office or through a physician’s clinic.**

All Physical Therapy services that are billed at the Great Falls Clinic are being performed by a licensed Physical Therapist or a Physical Therapist Assistant. Physicians are not performing and or billing for this services, nor are any other entities. All Medicare and Medicaid guidelines are being met.

**-The impact that economic credentialing would have if a hospital that offers Physical Therapy decides to refuse to extend privileges to a physician who has a PT in the Physician’s own clinic.**

This type of credentialing would only negatively affect patient care, not only for Physical Therapy services, but for any medical services. This action would set a precedent for the entity to control all services in which there is direct competition, i.e. radiology, lab and any other service that a physician may have in their practice.

**-The impact that self-referral has in determining where a patient goes to receive PT services.**

Physical Therapy has had direct access for over 20 years. This means that you can receive Physical Therapy services from a licensed Physical Therapist without a Physician referral. Physicians may assist in helping make a decision for care based on patient’s choice, diagnosis, expertise of a particular Physical Therapist, where the patient lives, insurance restriction, etc. Physical Therapists are also required to review with each patient option for care and receive consent to treatment. This includes informing the patient that they could receive other such services elsewhere and explain to them choices available.

**-The type of information that is available to a patient to enable the patient to decide where to get PT service.**

Our Orthopedic department, for example, provides the patient a list of Physical Therapy Clinics in the Great Falls surrounding area. This helps educate the patient that he or she does have a choice. Other considerations are as stated above. The Orthopedic department at the Great Falls Clinic on average refers 40 % of their total referrals to the Great Falls Physical Therapy Clinic.

