



Concurrent Treatment

Sharing a Patient with Another Physical Therapist or Other Healthcare Providers

Published: April 1, 2019

Reissued: April 2026

Sometimes a physical therapist provides services to a patient who is concurrently receiving care from another physical therapist or from another healthcare provider for the same or related injury or condition. It's possible in some situations that:

- The care plans provided by one or more healthcare professionals inadvertently counteract each other.
- The patient receives conflicting advice.
- The physical therapist will not be able to document the effect of their own services on the patient's health.

A few things to keep in mind:

- Prior to offering concurrent treatment to a patient, you should be sure to understand what treatment is already being provided to the patient and determine whether that care might influence the efficacy of the physical therapy treatment you yourself will deliver.
- You should ensure informed consent is given by the patient prior to communicating with other treatment providers.
- Once you understand the treatment already being offered to the patient, you should use clinical judgement to determine whether your own concurrent treatment is
 - Clinically indicated,
 - Complementary and compatible with the treatment approach being used by the other treating healthcare professional(s), and
 - Not an unethical or inefficient use of healthcare resources.

Choosing to provide concurrent treatment

- If you decide to offer services to the patient concurrently, the role(s) of each treating healthcare professional should be established collaboratively and clearly communicated to the patient prior to offering services to avoid confusion when treatment is underway.



- You should identify, document, communicate, and manage the risks of concurrent treatment.
- When documenting concurrent treatment, clarity is essential. You should seek ongoing information from the patient in an effort to determine and document the effect of your own treatment, and to differentiate that from the effect of another healthcare provider's treatment.

Choosing not to provide concurrent treatment

- Your decision not to offer concurrent services should be made on a **case-by-case** basis. The decision and rationale should be clearly communicated to the patient and documented.
- If you decide to discontinue concurrent services for any reason (including when treatment approaches are in conflict or the risks outweigh the benefit to the patient), the decision and rationale should be clearly communicated to the patient and documented.