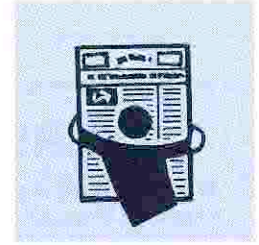
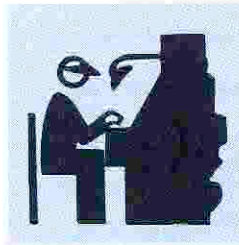


JERSEY JARGON



MARCH 1991

NJAPTA NEW JERSEY CHAPTER
AMERICAN PHYSICAL
THERAPY ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S CORNER BY BONNIE TESHENDORF



New Jersey always seems to have enormous activity in the area of health affairs. Board attempts to keep you informed about the myriad of reimbursement, regulatory and legislative activities are continuous.

You will, no doubt, recall the sting you felt last summer when you were assessed an extra \$100.00

special fee added to your professional license as part of the effort to contend with automobile insurance. Many therapists wrote to the Governor, as I did on behalf of the Association, to protest the fee. It was the principle as much as the actual amount that bothered everyone.

The Medical Society, the Dental Association, and the Attorneys Professional Society sued the government in an attempt to retract the assessment. They were recently notified that they lost the suit. I do not yet know if there are plans to appeal to a higher court. We did not join the suit at that time, and we are unlikely to pursue this cause in the future.

A recent addition to the automobile insurance issue is the recent publication of medical fee schedules. Physical therapists are not listed as a provider with specific fee breakdowns. Letters have gone out to the appropriate authorities to protest the omission of physical therapists. We are uncertain if this represents an oversight, or if it was anticipated that we might collect fees issued under another category. We are presently awaiting information.

On another ancient issue, the Board of Medical Examiners recently issued notice of a new regulation pertaining to professional practice. This regulation has been on the drafting table since 1985. It is an attempt to outline the practice constraints for referral for profit, kickbacks and disclosure. Some of the therapists who were active in our Chapter back in the mid 1980's will remember a hearing in

Trenton at which Helen Ransky testified. Some issues do not go away. I suspect this one is not yet finished! Members should protest the particulars of this regulation because it, in essence, authorizes and legitimizes the referral for profit practice.

If you wish to read the regulation in its entirety, it can be found in the *New Jersey Register* from January 22, 1991.

The Chapter introduced A-4090 in late October. This bill provides the option for patients to seek care from a physical therapist without prior referral from a physician. Many of you will be questioned on the bill. If you are unprepared to answer inquiries, please feel free to call the Chapter Office for information. We have developed an information fact sheet for your use, and there is a telephone network in place if you need to discuss the issue with someone as well. My phone does ring, and I will call you back if you wish to speak to me directly.

This bill is a direct response to a vote from the membership. I hope you were present when that unanimous decision was made. Much of our discussion at the Chapter Conference will no doubt center on this issue.

Well, this is my last official President's Corner. The three years of my term of office have presented colorful, event filled learning experiences. I must say I have never been bored, always had more to do than I thought I could manage, and rarely was without something to talk and think about. It has been a wonderful opportunity for me, and I hope I have served the membership to your satisfaction. Your support has been important to me, and I trust you will continue to demonstrate support and caring for you new President as she begins the challenge of this journey.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE ISSUE

Information about the up-coming
Conference March 15-17

Details inside...