

REFERRAL FEES AND FEE SPLITTING

Date adopted: July 27, 2019

Last updated: July 27, 2019

Payment by or to a licensee solely for the referral of a patient is unethical. A licensee may not accept payment of any kind, in any form, from any source, such as the manufacturer of medical appliances, devices, and equipment or referring a patient to said source. In each case, the payment violates the requirement to deal honestly with patients, colleagues and vendors. The patient relies upon the advice of the licensee on matters of referral. All referrals must be based on the skill and quality of the licensee to whom the patient has been referred or the quality and efficacy of the treatment/product prescribed.

It is unethical for licensees to offer financial incentives or other valuable considerations to patients in exchange for recruitment of other patients. Such incentive can distort the information that patients provide to potential patients, thus distorting the expectations of potential patients and compromising the trust that is the foundation of the patient-physician licensee relationship. Furthermore, referral fees are prohibited by N.C.G.S. §90-401. Violation of this statute may result in disciplinary action by the Board.

Except in instances permitted by statute, it is the position of the Board that a licensee cannot share revenue on a percentage basis with a non-licensee. To do so is fee splitting and is grounds for disciplinary action by the Board.