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To: All health care providers and healing arts practitioners

I have been practicing acupuncture in Ohio for the past 12 years. My license number is 6 in the state of Ohio. Although my practice focus is primarily women's health care and infertility, I also see my share of patients with issues in the area of orthopedics and pain management.

Over the years, I have frequently referred patients to Tom Ockler, PT, with excellent results for the purpose of evaluation, and often re-evaluation, in addition to physical therapy and allied modalities. Tom's detailed patient assessments help me to decide what, where, how often, and IF to treat, and have proved to be incredibly insightful, especially in lieu of confusing or complicated cases.

My experience with referring to Tom Ockler, PT, is that he is able to make extremely insightful evaluations that help us formulate sophisticated and effective treatment plans that accelerate patient healing. Because he works for himself, he can better provide the type of patient focused care we want for our patients, and even for our families, and ourselves.

I am often amazed that there has been no detailed evaluation of the pain patient who has presented at my office, nor have they participated in a supervised physical therapy program. But, quite typically, a cortisone injection (or series of), a round of steroids, and/or a host of drugs with detrimental side effects, have been used to (mis)manage their case, with no resolution.

Many of our patients are trying to avoid even more radical procedures like surgery, and they look to us for answers. Tag teaming patients with Tom (acupuncture with physical therapy) has helped my patients achieve faster, better, and more stable results than without. I have received many thank you notes from patients for referring them to Tom. By referring to competent associates like Tom, I believe it adds to my credibility as a practitioner.

My word is on the line when I make a referral, and I have no hesitation when referring patients to his clinic. In fact, it's the first thing I think of when a patient comes to me for any sort of musculoskeletal problem. Putting them into the hands of an experienced and competent colleague is really an important first step to creating a potentially viable treatment plan that will get palpable results. Our patients are trusting us to guide them, so we have to know what we are doing, and not waste their time and money, or add to their misery.

It is rare that patients make the acupuncturist their "first stop", as they navigate their way to relief. Without a good map of where we are, it is more difficult to get to where we want to go. As is often the case, physical therapists working in large, corporate practices are unable to deliver the care the way it is needed, due to "corporatized" structure they must adhere to. Typically that practice model is great for the bottom line of the company, but lousy for the patient, and unrewarding for the practitioner. For corporate/hospital affiliate offices, there is a steady supply of patients fed to them through the system they participate in. I feel it is important to support the work of independent practitioners who practice with integrity and pride, and therefore offer better care for our patients.

Anne Kinchen, LAc.

Sincerely,
Anne Kinchen, LAc.