

TRANSMITTAL SHEET FOR
NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

Control _____ Department or Agency Alabama Board of Physical Therapy
Rule No. 700-X-3-.03

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Rule Title: Roles and Responsibilities of Licensees

_____ New X Amend _____ Repeal _____ Adopt by Reference

Would the absence of the proposed rule significantly harm or endanger the public health, welfare, or safety?

NO

Is there a reasonable relationship between the state's police power and the protection of the public health, safety, or welfare?

YES

Is there another, less restrictive method of regulation available that could adequately protect the public?

NO

Does the proposed rule have the effect of directly or indirectly increasing the costs of any goods or services involved and, if so, to what degree?

NO

Is the increase in cost, if any, more harmful to the public than the harm that might result from the absence of the proposed rule?

N/A

Are all facets of the rulemaking process designed solely for the purpose of, and so they have, as their primary effect, the protection of the public?

YES

Does the proposed rule have an economic impact?

NO

If the proposed rule has an economic impact, the proposed rule is required to be accompanied by a fiscal note prepared in accordance with subsection (f) of Section 41-22-23, Code of Alabama 1975.

Certification of Authorized Official

I certify that the attached proposed rule has been proposed in full compliance with the requirements of Chapter 22, Title 41, Code of Alabama 1975, and that it conforms to all applicable filing requirements of the Administrative Procedure Division of the Legislative Reference Service.

Signature of certifying officer Glenn A. Davis
Date JUNE 16, 2014

ALABAMA BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

AGENCY NAME: Alabama Board of Physical Therapy

RULE NO. & TITLE: 700-X-3-.03 Roles and Responsibilities of Licensees


INTENDED ACTION: The Alabama Board of Physical Therapy proposes to amend the rule pertaining to the roles and responsibilities of licensees; specifically to clarify the roles and responsibilities of physical therapist students and physical therapist assistant students.

SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed amendment to rule 700-X-3-.03 will attempt to clarify the roles and responsibilities of physical therapist students and physical therapist assistant students while working in a clinical affiliation where they will be in contact with patients.

TIME, PLACE, MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS: Interested persons may present their views in writing or in person through the close of business on August 5, 2014. Those wishing to present views in person should contact the Board of Physical Therapy at 334/242-4064.

FINAL DATE FOR COMMENT AND COMPLETION OF NOTICE: August 5, 2014.

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Glenn A. Davis
Executive Director

700-X-3-.03 Roles And Responsibilities Of Licensees.

(1) Roles and Responsibilities, Generally. Within the provision of physical therapy service there are three recognized levels of personnel: The professional physical therapist who is licensed to practice physical therapy; the physical therapist assistant who is licensed to assist the physical therapist; and the physical therapist aide/attendant who is not licensed but is usually an on-job-trained individual who provides support activities for the physical therapist and the physical therapist assistant. The physical therapist must assume primary responsibility for physical therapy care rendered by supportive personnel under his/her supervision or direction. Both direction and supervision include, when appropriate, observation of the application of physical therapy procedures, conferences related to patient progress, verbal and written reports.

(2) Definitions.

(a) **Direction** means the action of the physical therapist in delegating duties to a physical therapist assistant, maintaining close communication with the physical therapist assistant, and overseeing the physical therapist assistant's activities on a frequent regularly scheduled basis.

(b) **Supervision** means the direct onsite overseeing of the performance of assigned or delegated duties or functions.

(c) **Diagnosis** for physical therapy means the identification of functional limitations and/or impairments and/or disabilities which are used to guide physical therapy treatments. It is not a medical diagnosis or the identification of a disease.

(3) Roles and Responsibilities, Specifically.

(a) **Physical Therapist.** The roles and responsibilities of a person licensed by this Board to practice physical therapy in the State of Alabama generally are:

1. To interpret a practitioner's referrals.
2. To perform and document the initial evaluation, as well as the physical therapy plan of care which may include:
 - a. Diagnosis rendered by the referring or previously diagnosing health care provider
 - b. Diagnosis for physical therapy
 - c. Presenting problems
 - d. Past medical history including, but not limited to, conditions for which patient is taking medication and conditions which are currently being treated by a physician

- e. List of medications being taken by the patient
- f. Objective findings of the physical therapy evaluation
- g. Assessment as to what the current problem(s) is/are that require physical therapy intervention
- h. Goals, both short-term and long-term if appropriate
- i. Physical therapy plan of treatment including frequency and duration

3. A Physical Therapist will not be disciplined for accepting a referral from a licensed assistant to a physician acting pursuant to a valid supervisory agreement or a licensed certified registered nurse practitioner in a valid collaborative practice agreement with a licensed physician as long as the physical therapist has a reasonable good faith belief that the assistant to a physician or the nurse practitioner has the authority to make the referral.

4. To identify and document precautions, special problems, contraindications, anticipated progress, and plans for reevaluation.

5. To implement and supervise that program.

6. To select and delegate the appropriate portions of the treatment plan and program.

7. To delegate only those patient care duties to supportive personnel who are qualified under the provisions of these rules to perform such duties.

8. To reevaluate the patient and adjust the treatment plan, perform the final evaluation of the patient and discharge planning.

9. To designate or establish channels of written and oral communication.

10. To maintain adequate records of the case and report to appropriate sources.

11. To direct no more than four licensed physical therapist assistants at one time.

12. To refuse to carry out treatment procedures that they believe to be not in the best interest of the patient.

13. To provide supervision of physical therapist and/or physical therapist assistant students who are on clinical affiliations

approved by their school as part of their Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) approved educational program, and to only have those students perform activities for which they have completed training in their CAPTE approved educational program and which the supervising physical therapist has verified competency.

(b) Physical Therapist Assistant. When using an abbreviated title the physical therapist assistant should use the letters PTA. The roles and responsibilities of a person licensed by this Board to practice as a physical therapist assistant in the State of Alabama generally are:

1. To practice only under the direction of a physical therapist licensed to practice in the State of Alabama.
2. To assist with but not perform patient disability evaluations.
3. To perform treatment procedures as delegated by the physical therapist but not to initiate or alter a treatment plan.
4. To supervise other supportive personnel as charged by the physical therapist.
5. To perform clerical, housekeeping, or other tasks as designated by the physical therapist.
6. To notify the physical therapist of changes in patient's status, including all untoward patient responses.
7. To discontinue immediately any treatment procedures which in their judgment appear to be harmful to the patient.
8. To refuse to carry out treatment procedures that they believe to be not in the best interest of the patient.
9. To provide supervision of physical therapist assistant students who are on clinical affiliations approved by their school as part of their CAPTE approved educational program, and to only have those students perform activities for which they have completed training in their CAPTE approved educational program and which the physical therapist and supervising physical therapist assistant have verified competency.

(c) Physical Therapy Aide, Attendant, or other Designated Physical Therapy Supportive Personnel excluding the Physical Therapist Assistant. The roles and responsibilities of unlicensed personnel in physical therapy are:

1. To perform assigned duties under the direct on-site supervision of the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant.

2. To prepare patients and area for physical therapy treatment.

3. To assist patients in dressing, removing clothing, and applying or removing assistive or supporting devices.

4. To support or stabilize patients to assist the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant.

5. To transport patients.

6. To transfer or assist in transfer of patients when appropriate.

7. To perform housekeeping duties.

8. To perform clerical or reception duties when directed by the physical therapist.

9. To assist in performance of routine treatment procedures as delegated and directly supervised (onsite) by the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant:

a. The aide may only perform activities that do not require the clinical decision making of the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant.

10. To perform designated tasks with the following restrictions:

a. The PT or PTA supervising the aide must reassess the patient at the beginning of each treatment session to determine what treatment procedures are appropriate for that treatment session.

b. If modality treatments are to be provided, the PT or PTA supervising the aide must designate the exact location to be treated, the length of treatment, and the parameters of the modality being used.

c. The aide may not perform any hands-on treatment, including, but not limited to, manual resistance exercise, passive range of motion, soft tissue mobilization or joint mobilization. This does not prohibit an aide from assisting licensed personnel in handling a patient when more than one person is needed.

d. If exercise is to be provided, the licensee supervising the aide must be in direct line of sight.

11. An aide may perform restorative care on patients discharged from physical therapy.

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Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-24-191, 34-24-193.

History: Filed September 30, 1982. **Amended:** Filed September 9, 1993; effective October 14, 1993. **Amended:** Filed December 5, 1995; effective January 9, 1996. **Amended:** Filed May 6, 1996; effective June 10, 1996.

Amended: Filed April 30, 2010; effective June 5, 2010. **Amended:** Filed June 16, 2014