

TRANSMITTAL SHEET FOR  
NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

Control \_\_\_\_\_ Department or Agency Alabama Board of Physical Therapy  
Rule No. 700-X-3-.03(1)(2)(3)  
Rule Title: Roles And Responsibilities of Licensees

\_\_\_\_\_ New  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

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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.

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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 MK Horner  
Date Nov 19, 2012

**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.

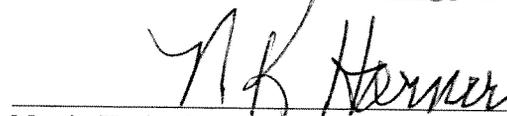
INTENDED ACTION: The Alabama Board of Physical Therapy proposes to adopt amendments to the rule re: Roles and Responsibilities of Licensees who practice with limited Direct Access.

SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed amendment to rule 700-X-3-.03 will attempt to clarify the roles and responsibilities of therapists, assistants, and aides working under limited Direct Access.

TIME, PLACE, MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS: Interested persons may present their views in writing or in person through the close of business on February 4, 2013. 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: February 4, 2013.

CONTACT PERSON AT AGENCY: Nettie Katharin Horner  
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Nettie Katharin Horner  
Executive Director

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.

(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 ~~the~~ a practitioners' referrals.

2. A physical therapist will not be disciplined for accepting a referral from a licensed assistant to a physician or a licensed certified registered nurse practitioner 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.

3. To perform the initial evaluation ~~of the referred patient.~~

4. To develop the treatment plan and program, including the long and short term goals.

5. ~~To identify and document precautions, special problems, contraindications, goals, anticipated progress, and plans for reevaluation.~~ When evaluating and treating a patient without a referral, to write a Plan of Care and submit it to the practitioner who rendered the diagnosis. The Plan of Care may include: a) Medical Diagnosis, b) Treatment diagnosis, c) Presenting problems, d) Past medical history including, but not limited to, condition for which patient is taking medication and conditions currently being treated for by a physician, e) List of medication, f) Objective findings of the evaluation, g) Assessment as to what the current problem(s) is/are that require therapy intervention, h) Goals, both short-term and long-term, i) Plan of treatment including frequency and duration.

6. To implement and supervise that program.

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

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

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

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

11. To maintain adequate records of the case and report ~~to the referring source or other~~ appropriate sources.

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

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

(b) Physical Therapist Assistant should use the preferred letters of PTA ~~also referred to as physical therapy assistant and physical therapy technician~~. 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.

(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 November 19, 2012;