

By the Committee on Health Policy; and Senator Detert

588-02016-13

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to physical therapy; amending s.  
3           486.021, F.S.; authorizing physical therapists to  
4           implement physical therapy treatment plans of a  
5           specified duration which are provided by advanced  
6           registered nurse practitioners; providing an effective  
7           date.

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9   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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11           Section 1. Subsection (11) of section 486.021, Florida  
12           Statutes, is amended to read:

13           486.021 Definitions.—In this chapter, unless the context  
14           otherwise requires, the term:

15           (11) "Practice of physical therapy" means the performance  
16           of physical therapy assessments and the treatment of any  
17           disability, injury, disease, or other health condition of human  
18           beings, or the prevention of such disability, injury, disease,  
19           or other condition of health, and rehabilitation as related  
20           thereto by the use of the physical, chemical, and other  
21           properties of air; electricity; exercise; massage; the  
22           performance of acupuncture only upon compliance with the  
23           criteria set forth by the Board of Medicine, when no penetration  
24           of the skin occurs; the use of radiant energy, including  
25           ultraviolet, visible, and infrared rays; ultrasound; water; the  
26           use of apparatus and equipment in the application of the  
27           foregoing or related thereto; the performance of tests of  
28           neuromuscular functions as an aid to the diagnosis or treatment  
29           of any human condition; or the performance of electromyography

588-02016-13

2013536c1

30 as an aid to the diagnosis of any human condition only upon  
31 compliance with the criteria set forth by the Board of Medicine.

32 (a) A physical therapist may implement a plan of treatment  
33 developed by the physical therapist for a patient or provided  
34 for a patient by a practitioner of record or by an advanced  
35 registered nurse practitioner licensed under s. 464.012. The  
36 physical therapist shall refer the patient to or consult with a  
37 ~~health care practitioner of record licensed under chapter 458,~~  
38 ~~chapter 459, chapter 460, chapter 461, or chapter 466,~~ if the  
39 patient's condition is found to be outside the scope of physical  
40 therapy. If physical therapy treatment for a patient is required  
41 beyond 21 days for a condition not previously assessed by a  
42 practitioner of record, the physical therapist shall obtain a  
43 practitioner of record who will review and sign the plan. For  
44 purposes of this paragraph, a health care practitioner licensed  
45 under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, chapter 461, or  
46 chapter 466 and engaged in active practice is eligible to serve  
47 as a practitioner of record.

48 (b) The use of roentgen rays and radium for diagnostic and  
49 therapeutic purposes and the use of electricity for surgical  
50 purposes, including cauterization, are not ~~authorized under the~~  
51 ~~term "physical therapy"~~ for purposes of as used in this chapter.

52 (c) The practice of physical therapy ~~as defined in this~~  
53 ~~chapter~~ does not authorize a physical therapy practitioner to  
54 practice chiropractic medicine as defined in chapter 460,  
55 including specific spinal manipulation. For the performance of  
56 specific chiropractic spinal manipulation, a physical therapist  
57 shall refer the patient to a health care practitioner licensed  
58 under chapter 460.

588-02016-13

2013536c1

59        (d) ~~Nothing in~~ This subsection does not authorize  
60 ~~authorizes~~ a physical therapist to implement a plan of treatment  
61 for a patient currently being treated in a facility licensed  
62 pursuant to chapter 395.

63        Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.