

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to physical therapy; amending s.
 3 486.021, F.S.; revising the definitions of the terms
 4 "physical therapist" and "practice of physical
 5 therapy"; providing an effective date.

6
 7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

8
 9 Section 1. Subsections (5) and (11) of section 486.021,
 10 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

11 486.021 Definitions.—In this chapter, unless the context
 12 otherwise requires, the term:

13 (5) "Physical therapist" means a person who is licensed
 14 and who practices physical therapy in accordance with the
 15 provisions of this chapter. A physical therapist is responsible
 16 for managing all aspects of the physical therapy care of a
 17 patient. A physical therapist shall:

18 (a) Provide the initial evaluation, determination of
 19 diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and intervention plan, and
 20 documentation of each patient visit.

21 (b) Periodically reevaluate each patient and related
 22 documentation.

23 (c) Document a patient's discharge from treatment,
 24 including the patient's response to treatment and intervention.

25 (d) Communicate the overall plan of care to the patient or
 26 the patient's legally authorized representative.

27 (e) Consult with or refer the patient to a practitioner of
 28 record if the patient's condition is found to be outside the
 29 scope of physical therapy. For purposes of this section, a
 30 health care practitioner licensed under chapter 458, chapter
 31 459, chapter 460, chapter 461, or chapter 466 and engaged in
 32 active practice is eligible to serve as a practitioner of
 33 record.

34 (f) Obtain a practitioner of record who will review and
 35 sign a plan of treatment when physical therapy treatment for a
 36 patient is required beyond 42 days for a condition not
 37 previously assessed by a practitioner of record.

38 (11) (a) "Practice of physical therapy" means:

39 1. Examining, evaluating, and testing patients and clients
 40 with mechanical, physiological, and developmental impairments;
 41 functional limitations; disabilities; or other health and
 42 movement-related conditions in order to determine a diagnosis,
 43 prognosis, treatment and intervention plan, and to reevaluate
 44 the ongoing effect of treatment.

45 2. Alleviating impairments, functional limitations, and
 46 disabilities by designing and implementing treatments that may
 47 include, but are not limited to, therapeutic exercise;
 48 functional training related to movement and mobility in self-
 49 care and in home; community or work integration or
 50 reintegration; manual therapy without the use of a filiform
 51 needle, including soft tissue and joint mobilization or
 52 manipulation, with the exception of specific chiropractic

53 manipulation; therapeutic massage; airway clearance techniques;
54 integumentary protection and repair techniques; debridement and
55 wound care; physical agents or modalities; mechanical and
56 electrotherapeutic modalities; and patient-related instruction.

57 3. Reducing the risk of injury, impairment, functional
58 limitation, and disability through methods including, but not
59 limited to, the promotion and maintenance of fitness, health,
60 and wellness in patients of all ages.

61 4. Engaging in administration, consultation, education,
62 and research.

63 5. Using apparatus and equipment in the application of
64 this subsection the performance of physical therapy assessments
65 and the treatment of any disability, injury, disease, or other
66 health condition of human beings, or the prevention of such
67 disability, injury, disease, or other condition of health, and
68 rehabilitation as related thereto by the use of the physical,
69 chemical, and other properties of air; electricity; exercise;
70 massage; the performance of acupuncture only upon compliance
71 with the criteria set forth by the Board of Medicine, when no
72 penetration of the skin occurs; the use of radiant energy,
73 including ultraviolet, visible, and infrared rays; ultrasound;
74 water; the use of apparatus and equipment in the application of
75 the foregoing or related thereto; the performance of tests of
76 neuromuscular functions as an aid to the diagnosis or treatment
77 of any human condition; or the performance of electromyography
78 as an aid to the diagnosis of any human condition only upon

79 ~~compliance with the criteria set forth by the Board of Medicine.~~

80 (b)~~(a)~~ A physical therapist shall ~~may~~ implement a plan of
81 treatment developed by the physical therapist for a patient or
82 provided for a patient by a practitioner of record or by an
83 advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under s.
84 464.012. ~~The physical therapist shall refer the patient to or~~
85 ~~consult with a practitioner of record if the patient's condition~~
86 ~~is found to be outside the scope of physical therapy. If~~
87 ~~physical therapy treatment for a patient is required beyond 21~~
88 ~~days for a condition not previously assessed by a practitioner~~
89 ~~of record, the physical therapist shall obtain a practitioner of~~
90 ~~record who will review and sign the plan. For purposes of this~~
91 ~~paragraph, a health care practitioner licensed under chapter~~
92 ~~458, chapter 459, chapter 460, chapter 461, or chapter 466 and~~
93 ~~engaged in active practice is eligible to serve as a~~
94 ~~practitioner of record.~~

95 (c)~~(b)~~ The use of roentgen rays and radium for diagnostic
96 and therapeutic purposes and the use of electricity for surgical
97 purposes, including cauterization, are not "physical therapy"
98 for purposes of this chapter.

99 (d)~~(e)~~ The practice of physical therapy does not authorize
100 a physical therapy practitioner to practice chiropractic
101 medicine as defined in chapter 460, including specific spinal
102 manipulation. ~~For the performance of specific chiropractic~~
103 ~~spinal manipulation, a physical therapist shall refer the~~
104 ~~patient to a health care practitioner licensed under chapter~~

CS/HB 515

2015

105 | ~~460.~~

106 | (e)~~(d)~~ This subsection does not authorize a physical
107 | therapist to implement a plan of treatment for a patient
108 | currently being treated in a facility licensed pursuant to
109 | chapter 395.

110 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.