

By Senator DiCeglie

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to physical therapy treatment plans;
3 amending s. 486.021, F.S.; exempting specified
4 services from the requirement that a physical
5 therapist have a practitioner of record review and
6 sign a plan of treatment; providing an effective date.

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8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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10 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (11) of section
11 486.021, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

12 486.021 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, unless the
13 context otherwise requires, the term:

14 (11) "Practice of physical therapy" means the performance
15 of physical therapy assessments and the treatment of any
16 disability, injury, disease, or other health condition of human
17 beings, or the prevention of such disability, injury, disease,
18 or other health condition, and the rehabilitation of such
19 disability, injury, disease, or other health condition by
20 alleviating impairments, functional movement limitations, and
21 disabilities by designing, implementing, and modifying treatment
22 interventions through therapeutic exercise; functional movement
23 training in self-management and in-home, community, or work
24 integration or reintegration; manual therapy; massage; airway
25 clearance techniques; maintaining and restoring the
26 integumentary system and wound care; physical agent or modality;
27 mechanical or electrotherapeutic modality; patient-related
28 instruction; the use of apparatus and equipment in the
29 application of such treatment, prevention, or rehabilitation;

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the performance of tests of neuromuscular functions as an aid to the diagnosis or treatment of any human condition; or the performance of electromyography as an aid to the diagnosis of any human condition only upon compliance with the criteria set forth by the Board of Medicine.

(a) A physical therapist may implement a plan of treatment developed by the physical therapist for a patient or provided for a patient by a practitioner of record or by an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under s. 464.012. The physical therapist shall refer the patient to or consult with a practitioner of record if the patient's condition is found to be outside the scope of physical therapy. If physical therapy treatment for a patient is required beyond 30 days for a condition not previously assessed by a practitioner of record, the physical therapist shall have a practitioner of record review and sign the plan. The requirement that a physical therapist have a practitioner of record review and sign a plan of treatment does not apply:

1. When a patient has been physically examined by a physician licensed in another state, the patient has been diagnosed by the physician as having a condition for which physical therapy is required, and the physical therapist is treating the condition; or

2. To services provided for purposes of health promotion, injury prevention, wellness, or fitness.

For purposes of this paragraph, a health care practitioner licensed under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, chapter 461, or chapter 466 and engaged in active practice is eligible

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59 to serve as a practitioner of record.

60 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.