

Chapter PT 5

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS

PT 5.01 Physical therapist assistants

PT 5.01 Physical therapist assistants. A physical therapist assistant, as defined in s. 448.52 (3), Stats., may practice physical therapy under the general supervision of a physical therapist. In providing general supervision, the physical therapist shall do all of the following:

(1) Have primary responsibility for physical therapy care rendered by the physical therapist assistant.

(2) Have direct face-to-face contact with the physical therapist assistant at least every 14 calendar days.

(3) Remain accessible to telecommunications in the interim between direct contacts while the physical therapist assistant is providing patient care.

(4) Limit the number of physical therapist assistants supervised to a number appropriate to the setting in which physical therapy is administered, to ensure that all patients under the care of the physical therapist receive services that are consistent with accepted standards of care and consistent with all other requirements under this chapter. No physical therapist may supervise more than 2 physical therapist assistants full-time equivalents at any time.

(5) Establish a written policy and procedure for written and oral communication. This policy and procedure shall include a specific description of the supervisory activities undertaken for the physical therapist assistant, appropriate to the setting and the services provided.

(6) Provide initial patient evaluation and interpretation of referrals.

(7) Develop and revise as appropriate the patient treatment plan and program.

(8) Delegate appropriate portions of the treatment plan and program to the physical therapist assistant consistent with the physical therapist assistant's education, training and experience.

(9) Provide on-site assessment and reevaluation of each patient's treatment a minimum of one time per calendar month or every tenth treatment day, whichever is sooner, and adjust the treatment plan as appropriate.

(10) Coordinate discharge plan decisions and the final assessment with the physical therapist assistant.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1995, No. 477, eff. 10-1-95.