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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

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**2015 Wisconsin Act 375**  
[2015 Assembly Bill 549]

**X-ray Orders by  
Physical Therapists**

2015 Wisconsin Act 375 adds physical therapists to the list of medical professionals who may order x-rays and allows a physical therapist to use x-ray results to determine a course of care or to determine whether a referral to another health care provider is necessary.

Specifically, the Act allows a physical therapist to prescribe or order the use of diagnostic x-ray equipment if the physical therapist satisfies one of the following qualifications:

- He or she holds a clinical doctorate degree in physical therapy.
- He or she has completed a nationally recognized specialty certification program.
- He or she has completed a nationally recognized residency or fellowship certified by an organization recognized by the examining board.
- He or she has completed a formal x-ray ordering training program with demonstrated physician involvement.

The Act requires a physical therapist who orders an x-ray for a patient to communicate with the patient's primary care physician or an appropriate health care provider to ensure coordination of care, unless all of the following are true:

- A radiologist has read the x-ray and not identified a significant finding.
- The patient does not have a primary care physician.
- The patient was not referred to the physical therapist by another health care practitioner to receive care from the physical therapist.

*Effective date:* April 27, 2016.

*Prepared by:* Mary Matthias, Principal Attorney

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.