



2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 549

1 **AN ACT to renumber and amend** 448.50 (4) (b); **to amend** 462.04; and **to create**
2 448.56 (7) of the statutes; **relating to:** the authority of physical therapists to
3 order X-rays and granting rule-making authority.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

4 **SECTION 1.** 448.50 (4) (b) of the statutes is renumbered 448.50 (4) (b) (intro.)
5 and amended to read:
6 448.50 (4) (b) (intro.) “Physical therapy” does not include using any of the
7 following:
8 1. Using roentgen rays or radium for any purpose, using except that “physical
9 therapy” includes ordering X-rays to be performed by qualified persons, subject to
10 s. 448.56 (7) (a), and using X-ray results to determine a course of care or to determine
11 whether a referral to another health care provider is necessary.

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1 2. Using electricity for surgical purposes, including cauterization,~~—or~~
2 prescribing.

3 3. Prescribing drugs or devices.

4 **SECTION 2.** 448.56 (7) of the statutes is created to read:

5 448.56 (7) ORDERING X-RAYS. (a) A physical therapist may order X-rays to be
6 performed by qualified persons only if the physical therapist satisfies one of the
7 following qualifications, as further specified by the examining board by rule:

8 1. The physical therapist holds a clinical doctorate degree in physical therapy.

9 2. The physical therapist has completed a nationally recognized specialty
10 certification program.

11 3. The physical therapist has completed a nationally recognized residency or
12 fellowship certified by an organization recognized by the examining board.

13 4. The physical therapist has completed a formal X-ray ordering training
14 program with demonstrated physician involvement.

15 (b) When a physical therapist orders an X-ray, the physical therapist shall
16 communicate with the patient's primary care physician or an appropriate health care
17 practitioner to ensure coordination of care, unless all of the following apply:

18 1. A radiologist has read the X-ray and not identified a significant finding.

19 2. The patient does not have a primary care physician.

20 3. The patient was not referred to the physical therapist by another health care
21 practitioner to receive care from the physical therapist.

22 **SECTION 3.** 462.04 of the statutes is amended to read:

23 **462.04 Prescription or order required.** A person who holds a license or
24 limited X-ray machine operator permit under this chapter may not use diagnostic
25 X-ray equipment on humans for diagnostic purposes unless authorized to do so by

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1 prescription or order of a physician licensed under s. 448.04 (1) (a), a dentist licensed
2 under s. 447.04 (1), a podiatrist licensed under s. 448.63, a chiropractor licensed
3 under s. 446.02, an advanced practice nurse certified under s. 441.16 (2), ~~or~~ a
4 physician assistant licensed under s. 448.04 (1) (f), or, subject to s. 448.56 (7) (a), a
5 physical therapist licensed under s. 448.53.

6

(END)