



2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 549

November 24, 2015 – Introduced by Representatives SANFELIPPO, BALLWEG, DUCHOW, EDMING, HORLACHER, KITCHENS, KNODL, KREMER, KRUG, MACCO, A. OTT, QUINN, ROHRKASTE, SWEARINGEN, TAUCHEN, C. TAYLOR, THIESFELDT, TITTL and WEATHERSTON, cosponsored by Senators WANGGAARD, VUKMIR, GUDEx, KAPENGA, NASS and STROEBEL. Referred to Committee on Health.

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

This bill allows for X-rays to be ordered by physical therapists who satisfy certain criteria.

Under current law, X-rays may generally only be performed if authorized pursuant to a prescription or order issued by one of several types of licensed medical professionals specified under current law. This bill adds licensed physical therapists to this list of licensed medical professionals authorized to prescribe or order the use of diagnostic X-ray equipment. The bill provides, however, that a licensed physical therapist may only order X-rays if the physical therapist satisfies one of certain conditions specified in the bill. In addition, the bill provides that the physical therapist must, when ordering X-rays, communicate with the patient's primary care physician or an appropriate health care provider to ensure coordination of care, unless certain criteria that are specified in the bill apply.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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

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1 **SECTION 1.** 448.50 (4) (b) of the statutes is renumbered 448.50 (4) (b) (intro.)
2 and amended to read:

3 448.50 (4) (b) (intro.) “Physical therapy” does not include ~~using~~ any of the
4 following:

5 1. Using roentgen rays or radium for any purpose, using except that “physical
6 therapy” includes ordering X-rays to be performed by qualified persons, subject to
7 s. 448.56 (7) (a), and using X-ray results to determine a course of care or to determine
8 whether a referral to another health care provider is necessary.

9 2. Using electricity for surgical purposes, including cauterization, ~~or~~
10 prescribing.

11 3. Prescribing drugs or devices.

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

13 448.56 (7) ORDERING X-RAYS. (a) A physical therapist may order X-rays to be
14 performed by qualified persons only if the physical therapist satisfies one of the
15 following qualifications, as further specified by the examining board by rule:

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

17 2. The physical therapist has completed a nationally recognized specialty
18 certification program.

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

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

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

