

MCW currently expends funds to send our medical assistants to third-party training sites, which is duplicative with the training our staff have already completed. This redundant training creates confusion and inefficiency in our clinics.

Physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants have no similar delegation-related hurdles to be able to utilize the same individuals, for the same tasks, in the same clinics. As a result, these providers currently provide efficient care to their patients, with less administrative time, effort, and expense. By allowing chiropractors to delegate to medical assistants, as outlined in the bill, this legislation will create the same requirements to delegate to medical assistants across these various provider types.

MCW's SpineCare Clinic staff expend significant time sending transcripts to DSPS, along with sending forms to the schools where are medical assistants have received their training to. To verify their skills, the schools then need to send the required information to DSPS. This added layer of infrastructure consumes resources in our clinics, at the schools, and at DSPS.

Given that most schools training medical assistants are unfamiliar with the DSPS process, there are usually significant time delays securing redundant credentials. Given the fact that the schools and DSPS are unaccustomed to these requests, there have been several occasions at MCW's SpineCare Clinic that the time delay is so great staff, must be sent to training courses which are scheduled many weeks out; taking them out of work for a full day. This leaves clinics short staffed.

Finally, adding medical assistants to the list of providers chiropractors may delegate to, does not change what tasks can be delegated by a chiropractor and does not expand the scope of a chiropractor. The tasks a chiropractor may delegate are already defined in administrative rule by the Wisconsin Chiropractic Examining Board.

MCW appreciates your consideration, and respectfully requests your support for SB 788. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Nathan Berken, MCW Vice President of Government Relations, at 414.955.8588, or nberken@mcw.edu.

TO: Chair Cabral-Guevara, and Members
Senate Committee on Health
FR: Sue Griffin, President
American Physical Therapy Association – WI Chapter

DA: January 18, 2024

RE: Senate Bill 788

My name is Dr. Susan Griffin. I am a physical therapist, and the president of the American Physical Therapy Association of Wisconsin (APTA-WI). I am providing written testimony for information only on AB 830. We have discussed our concerns with the Wisconsin Chiropractic Association and are hopeful we can discuss a possible clarifying amendment.

The stated purpose of this bill is to eliminate the requirement that medical assistants (MAs) obtain a chiropractic technician (CT) certification in order to provide adjunctive services at the direction of a chiropractor provided they were trained by an education program accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. The rationale proposed is that the CT certification is redundant to the educational preparation of an MA.

According to the chiropractic practice act, 'adjunctive services' may include the taking and preparation of a preliminary patient history, including 'taking patient vitals and gathering baseline data regarding a patient, including the nature of the chief complaint, family history, and medical history'. The MA curriculum prepares the individual to do those tasks. However, 'adjunctive services' may also include physiotherapy services, including the 'therapeutic use of physical agents or means, including heat, cold, light, air, water, sound, electricity, massage therapy or bodywork therapy, and physical exercise with and without assistive devices'. The MA curriculum does NOT prepare an individual to perform those activities.

Moraine Park Technical College, with campuses in Beaver Dam, West Bend, and Fond du Lac has both an MA program and a CT program. In Moraine Park's Medical Assistant courses, students learn how to 'record medical histories, obtain vital signs, prepare patients for examination, collect and prepare laboratory specimens, perform CLIA-waived laboratory tests, and instruct patients about medications or special diets' (<https://www.morainepark.edu/academics/programs/medical-assistant/>). The CT program 'explores therapeutic procedures most common to chiropractic practice including essential theory as well as indications and contraindications for their use. Modalities include electrical muscle stimulation; ultrasound; thermotherapy; cryotherapy; light therapy; traction; and therapeutic exercise relating to stretching, strengthening and proprioception enhancement' (https://catalog.morainepark.edu/programs/chiropractic-technician-certificate/index.html?_gl=1*13g9r4k*_ga*ODU1NjMwMTU5LjE3MDU0Mjk4Nzc.*_ga_HHD3T3FDL N*MTcwNTQ1MTkyNS40LjEuMTcwNTQ1MjMzMi4wLjAuMA..#course requirementstext). There is clearly no 'redundancy' between these two courses of study. The MA program prepares the graduate to perform one part of the 'adjunctive services' (taking and preparation of a preliminary patient history), but not the other component of 'adjunctive services' ('physiotherapy services').

There are a couple of ways in which the bill could be modified to address the concerns of APTA-WI. The easiest would be to clarify that a MA does not need to obtain a CT certification to perform tasks

related to collecting a 'preliminary patient history', but that they DO need it to provide 'physiotherapy treatment' (both as defined in the chiropractic practice act). Another way would be to clarify that the MA who provides physiotherapy treatment must complete the same 'didactic and clinical training program' as the CT as delineated in Chapter 10.02 of the Chiropractic Administrative Rules (https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/chir/10.pdf). Making these changes would make it clear legislatively that chiropractic care is delegated only to individuals with sufficient education and training.

We look forward to working with the bill authors and the Wisconsin Chiropractic Association to craft language that accomplishes this goal.

Best regards,

Susan Griffin, PT, DPT, MS
President, American Physical Therapy Association of Wisconsin