

Title 30: Professions and Occupations

Part 3103: Licensure, Practice, Renewal, Continuing Education, Standard of Conduct & Fee

Part 3103 Chapter 8: Physical Therapist Assistant

Rule 8.2 Direction and Supervision of the physical therapist assistant.

1. Supervision Standards. A Mississippi-licensed physical therapist may delegate the performance of selected acts, tasks, functions, or interventions to a Mississippi licensed physical therapist assistant. The physical therapist shall, however, at all times be responsible for the physical therapy plan of care and instructions provided to the physical therapist assistant; interpretation of referrals; oversight of all documentation for services rendered to each client or patient; providing direct care to the patient; and assuring that the physical therapist assistant does not function autonomously. The supervising physical therapist shall, at a minimum:
 - a. Ensure that the assignment of responsibilities to the physical therapist assistant is commensurate with his or her qualifications, including training, education, skill level, and experience. In cases when the supervising physical therapist is the direct employer of the physical therapist assistant, the physical therapist shall ensure that the physical therapist assistant holds a valid and current Mississippi license.
 - b. Examine and evaluate the patient or client to establish a physical therapy diagnosis, treatment goals, frequency, duration, and plan of care before delegating tasks or interventions to be performed by a physical therapist assistant -- the initial evaluation.
 - c. Before a patient is treated by the physical therapist assistant, evaluate the patient and establish a written plan of care to include the treatment initial and ongoing treatment program goals and plans for the patient or client, the elements of the plan of care to be delegated to the physical therapist assistant and predetermined procedures and protocols for acts, tasks, functions, or interventions delegated to the physical therapist assistant.
 - d. Review the patient plan of care, treatment goals and delegated tasks with the physical therapist assistant before the physical therapist assistant provides care to a patient for the first time.
 - e. The supervising physical therapist shall be readily available in person or by telecommunication to the physical therapist assistant at all times for advice, assistance and instruction while the physical therapist assistant is treating patients or clients or providing physical therapy services.
 - f. Hold regularly scheduled and documented in meetings and case conferences with the physical therapist assistant to evaluate the assistant's performance, review records and changes in plan of care, and assess the plan of care. The frequency of the meetings and case conferences is to be determined by the supervising physical therapist based upon the needs of the patient; the supervisory needs of the physical therapist assistant; and prior to any planned discharge. Notwithstanding the aforesaid, meetings and case conferences must take place at least once every sixth physical therapist assistant visit or at least once every thirtieth (30th) calendar day, whichever occurs first and be documented in the patient or client record.

- g. Reevaluate the patient as previously determined during the initial evaluation, or more often if necessary, and modify the treatment, goals and plan as needed. The physical therapist assistant shall not alter a treatment plan or program without the prior evaluation by, and approval of, the supervising physical therapist. A supervising physical therapist must, however, re-evaluate and render personal treatment to a patient receiving physical therapy services from a physical therapist assistant a minimum of least once every sixth (6th) physical therapist assistant visit or at least once every or thirtieth (30th) calendar day, whichever occurs first.
 - h. Treat and assess the patient or client for his or her final treatment session, establish a discharge plan and write a discharge summary/status. If the supervising physical therapist is unable to carry out the provisions of this paragraph due to an emergency or unforeseen situation, an explanation of the circumstances constituting the emergency or unforeseen event must be documented in the treatment record of such patient.
2. Physical Therapist Assistants under Supervision. It is the responsibility of the physical therapist to determine the number of physical therapist assistants he or she can supervise safely and competently. However, in no case shall the physical therapist supervise more than a total of four (4) physical therapist assistants and/or physical therapy students at any point in time during the physical therapist's work day. The number of supervisees is inclusive of all geographic locations or employing agencies.
3. Documentation Requirements.
- a. A written record of physical therapy treatment shall be maintained for each patient. The written record shall include:
 - i. A prescription or referral when required showing the written request for physical therapy evaluation or treatment signed by a healthcare provider lawfully authorized to make such request.
 - ii. Written documentation in each patient's record, along with the physical therapist's signature, of the treatment program goals and plan of care. An initial physical therapy evaluation shall not be documented or signed by a physical therapist assistant or any other personnel.
 - iii. Progress notes regarding the client's or patient's subjective status, changes in objective findings, and progression or regression toward established goals.
 - iv. A record of the reassessment or re-evaluation of the patient or client, written and signed by the supervising physical therapist.
 - v. Written documentation of each patient or client visit which includes specific treatment and services provided.
 - vi. Written documentation of supervisory visits and/or conferences -- including the date of visit, treatment plans and changes in the treatment plan; other communications between the supervising physical therapist and the physical therapist assistant; and findings and subsequent decisions made. The written documentation must be signed and dated by the supervising physical therapist or the physical therapist assistant.
 - vii. Documentation of a discharge evaluation by the supervising physical therapist and a discharge summary which must be written and signed by the supervising physical therapist. If the supervising physical therapist is unable to provide a patient discharge evaluation and plan, the reason for or circumstances of such inability must be documented in the physical therapy treatment record of such

- patient.
- viii. Accurate patient or client treatment and billing records.
 - b. A signature stamp shall not be used in lieu of a written signature on physical therapy patient or client records. Forms of electronic signatures, established pursuant to written policies and procedures to assure that only the author can authenticate his or her own entry, may be acceptable.
4. The supervision requirements stated in these regulations are minimal. It is the professional responsibility and duty of the licensed physical therapist to provide the physical therapist assistant with more supervision if deemed necessary in the physical therapist's professional judgment.

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~~Rule 8.2 Supervision. Direct, on-site supervision means face-to-face oversight by a licensed physical therapist at regular intervals of services provided by a:~~

- ~~1. Physical therapist assistant issued a regular license or a temporary license per Part 3103 Rule 1.4 of these regulations as follows:~~

- ~~a. The supervising physical therapist and the physical therapist assistant must make a joint visit on the first visit by the physical therapist assistant to implement the treatment plan for a patient. Subsequently, the supervising physical therapist must visit and personally render treatment and reassess each patient who is provided services by the physical therapist assistant no later than every sixth treatment day or fourteenth calendar day, whichever comes first. This visit and any formal communications and conferences between the physical therapist and physical therapist assistant regarding treatment or plan of care changes should be documented in the medical record. When the physical therapist and physical therapist assistant are not continuously within the same physical setting, greater emphasis in directing the physical therapist assistant must be placed upon oral and written reporting. When the supervising physical therapist is not continuously on-site, the physical therapist must be available via telecommunications at all times that the physical therapist assistant is providing treatment.~~
- ~~b. Regardless of the practice setting, the following requirements must be observed when the physical therapist is supervising the physical therapist assistant:
 - ~~i. The initial visit for evaluation of the patient and establishment of a plan of care must be made by the supervising physical therapist.~~
 - ~~ii. A joint visit must be made by the supervising physical therapist and the physical therapist assistant prior to the physical therapist assistant initiating treatment based on the plan of care. The joint visit may be performed at the initial visit for evaluation by the supervising physical therapist prior to the physical therapist assistant initiating treatment based on the plan of care. The joint visit may be performed at the initial visit for evaluation by the supervising physical therapist.~~
 - ~~iii. The supervising physical therapist should assess the final patient treatment at the time of discharge and write a discharge summary.~~
 - ~~iv. A supervisory visit should include:
 - ~~1. A complete functional assessment.~~
 - ~~2. Review of activities with appropriate revision or termination of the plan of care.~~
 - ~~3. Assessment of utilization of outside resources (whenever applicable).~~
 - ~~4. Documentary evidence of such visit.~~~~~~
- ~~c. Regardless of the setting, a physical therapist may not supervise more than four (4) physical therapist assistants.~~

2. ~~Physical therapist assistant issued a temporary license under Part 3103 Rule 1.4.1.2 of the regulations. Please refer to Part 3103 Rule 1.5.3.1.~~
3. The supervision requirements stated in these regulations are minimal. It is the professional responsibility and duty of the licensed physical therapist to provide the physical therapist assistant with more supervision if deemed necessary in the physical therapist's professional judgment.

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 - d. Review the patient plan of care, treatment goals and delegated tasks with the physical therapist assistant before the physical therapist assistant provides care to a patient for the first time.
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Source: *Miss. Code Ann.* §§73-23-33(f) and (g) and 73-23-43(1)(a), (e), (h) and (j) (Rev. 2008).