

Title 30: Professions and Occupations

Part 3101: Organization and Structure

Part 3101: Chapter 1: General Provisions

Rule 1.3 Definitions. The following terms shall have the meaning set forth below, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Board" shall mean the Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy.
2. "License" shall mean the document of licensure issued by the Board.
3. "Act" shall mean the "Mississippi Physical Therapy Practice Law" sections 73-23-31 et seq. of Mississippi Code of 1972, annotated.
4. "Examination" shall mean a national examination approved by the board for the licensure of a Physical Therapist or a Physical Therapist Assistant.
5. "Physical therapy" or "physiotherapy," are terms that are deemed identical and interchangeable, means the art and science of a health specialty concerned with the prevention of disability, and the physical rehabilitation for congenital or acquired physical or mental disabilities, resulting from or secondary to injury or disease.
6. "Practice of physical therapy" shall mean the practice of the health specialty and encompass physical therapy evaluation, treatment, planning, treatment administration, instruction, and consultative services, including but not limited to:
 - a. Performing and interpreting tests and measurements as an aid to physical therapy treatment, for the purpose of correcting or alleviating any physical condition and to prevent the development of any physical or mental disability within the scope of physical therapy; and the performance of neuromuscular-skeletal tests and measurements as an aid in diagnosis, evaluation, or determination of the existence of and the extent of anybody malfunction and to assess ongoing effects of intervention. Electromyography (EMG)/nerve conduction studies may be performed by a licensed physical therapist who is certified in electromyography by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialists (ABPTS).
 - b. Planning initial and subsequent treatment programs, on the basis of test findings; and
 - c. Administering treatment by therapeutic exercise, neuro-developmental procedures, therapeutic massage/manual therapy, mechanical devices and therapeutic agents, which employ the physical, chemical and other properties of air, water, heat, cold, electricity, sound and radiant energy for the purpose of correcting or alleviating any physical condition or preventing the development of any physical or mental disability. Telehealth is an appropriate model of service delivery when it is provided in a manner consistent with the standards of practice, ethical principles, rules and regulations for Mississippi physical therapy practitioners. Intramuscular manipulation may be performed by a licensed physical therapist who has met the criteria as described hereunder:
 - A. Intramuscular manual therapy is a physical intervention that uses a filiform needle no larger than 25 gauge needle to stimulate trigger points, diagnose and treat neuromuscular pain and functional movement deficits;

is based upon Western medical concepts; requires an examination and diagnosis, and treats specific anatomic entities selected according to physical signs. Intramuscular manual therapy does not include the stimulation of auricular or distal points or any points based upon areas of Eastern (Oriental) medicine and acupuncture.

- B. Intramuscular manual therapy as defined pursuant to this rule is within the scope of practice of physical therapy.
- C. A physical therapist must have the knowledge, skill, ability, and documented competency to perform an act that is within the physical therapist's scope of practice.
- D. To be deemed competent to perform intramuscular manual therapy a physical therapist must meet the following requirements:
 - 1. Documented successful completion of a intramuscular manual therapy course of study; online study is not considered appropriate training.
 - a. A minimum of 50 hours of face-to-face IMS/dry needling course study; online study is not considered appropriate training.
 - b. Three years of practice as a licensed physical therapist prior to using the intramuscular manual therapy technique.
 - 2. The physical therapist must have Board approved credentials for providing intramuscular manipulation which are on file with the Board office prior to using the treatment technique.
- E. The provider of the required educational course does not need to be a physical therapist. A intramuscular manual therapy course of study must meet the educational and clinical prerequisites as defined in this rule, D(1)(a)&(b) and demonstrate a minimum of two years of intramuscular manual therapy practice techniques.
- F. A physical therapist performing intramuscular manual therapy in his/her practice must have written informed consent for each patient where this technique is used. The patient must sign and receive a copy of the informed consent form. The consent form must, at a minimum, clearly state the following information:
 - 1. Risks and benefits of intramuscular manual therapy.
 - 2. Physical therapist's level of education and training in intramuscular manual therapy.
 - 3. The physical therapist will not stimulate any distal or auricular points during intramuscular manual therapy.
- G. When intramuscular manual therapy is performed, this must be clearly documented in the procedure notes and must indicate how the patient tolerated the technique as well as the outcome after the procedure.
- H. Intramuscular manual therapy shall not be delegated and must be directly performed by a qualified, licensed physical therapist.
- I. Intramuscular manual therapy must be performed in a manner consistent with generally accepted standards of practice, including but not limited to, aseptic techniques and standards of the center for communicable diseases.
- J. Failure to provide written documentation of appropriate educational credentials is a violation of this rule, and is prima facie evidence that the

physical therapist is not competent and not permitted to perform intramuscular manual therapy.

K. This rule is intended to regulate and clarify the scope of practice for the physical therapist.

7. "Physical therapist (PT)" means a person licensed in this state to practice physical therapy as defined in these regulations, and whose license is in good standing.
8. "Physical therapist assistant (PTA)" means a person who is licensed in this state and who assists a physical therapist in the provision of physical therapy under the direct, on-site supervision of the physical therapist. The physical therapist assistant may perform physical therapy procedures and related tasks that have been selected and delegated by the supervising physical therapists, but shall not perform the following physical therapy activities: interpretation of referrals; physical therapy initial evaluation/screening and reevaluation; identification, determination or modification of plans of care (including goals and treatment programs); final discharge assessment/evaluation or establishment of the discharge plan; or therapeutic techniques beyond the skill and knowledge of the physical therapist assistant.
9. "Referral" means the written or oral designation of physical therapy services by a doctor of medicine, dentistry, osteopathy, podiatry, or chiropractic, physician assistant, or by a nurse practitioner, holding a license in good standing under the laws of the state of Mississippi, another state, a territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia. The instruction may be as detailed or as general as the doctor, physician assistant or nurse practitioner in his or her sound discretion deems necessary in the particular case.
10. "Direct, on-site supervision" means face-to-face oversight by a licensed physical therapist at regular intervals, as prescribed in these regulations adopted by the Board, of the services provided to a patient by a licensed physical therapist assistant.
11. "Direct supervision" means face-to-face oversight at regular intervals of a physical therapist issued a temporary license under Part 3103 Rule 1.4 of these regulations by a licensed physical therapist.
12. "Face-to-face" means within each other's sight or presence at regular intervals.
13. "Regular intervals" means every sixth treatment day or fourteenth calendar day, whichever comes first.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann.* §§73-23- 33 and 73-23-43 (Rev. 2008).

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