

**Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy  
Jurisdiction Licensure Reference Guide  
Topic: Direct Access Language**

This table reports the specific language and practice act/regulation references regarding direct access to physical therapy services. Click on the state to read its language and practice act reference.

**STATE**

<a href="#"><u>Alabama</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Nebraska</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Alaska</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Nevada</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Arizona</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>New Hampshire</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Arkansas</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>New Jersey</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>California</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>New Mexico</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Colorado</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>New York</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Connecticut</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>North Carolina</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Delaware</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>North Dakota</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>District of Columbia</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Ohio</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Florida</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Oklahoma</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Georgia</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Oregon</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Hawaii</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Pennsylvania</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Idaho</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Puerto Rico</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Illinois</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Rhode Island</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Indiana</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>South Carolina</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Iowa</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>South Dakota</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Kansas</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Tennessee</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Kentucky</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Texas</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Louisiana</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Utah</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Maine</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Vermont</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Maryland</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Virgin Islands</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Massachusetts</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Virginia</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Michigan</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Washington</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Minnesota</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>West Virginia</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Mississippi</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Wisconsin</u></a>
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STATE	Direct Access	Practice Act Reference	Language
Alabama	Limited	Section 34-24-210.1	<p>(a) Without prescription or referral, a licensed physical therapist may perform an initial evaluation or consultation of a screening nature to determine the need for physical therapy and may perform the physical therapy and other services provided in subdivisions (1) to (5), inclusive, of subsection (b). Implementation of physical therapy shall otherwise be based on the referral of a person licensed to practice medicine, surgery, dentistry, chiropractic, licensed assistant to a physician acting pursuant to a valid supervising agreement or a licensed certified registered nurse practitioner in a valid collaborative practice agreement with a licensed physician.</p> <p>(b) The physical therapy and other services referred to in subsection (a), which may be performed without prescription or referral, include and are limited to the following:</p> <p>(1) To a child with a diagnosed developmental disability pursuant to the plan of care for the child.</p> <p>(2) To a patient of a home health care agency pursuant to the plan of care for the patient.</p> <p>(3) To a patient in a nursing home pursuant to the plan of care for the patient.</p> <p>(4) Related to conditioning or to providing education or activities in a wellness setting for the purpose of injury prevention, reduction of stress, or promotion of fitness.</p> <p>(5) To an individual for a previously diagnosed condition or conditions for which physical therapy services are appropriate after informing the health care provider rendering the diagnosis. The diagnosis shall have been made within the immediately preceding 90 days. The physical therapist shall provide the health care provider who rendered the diagnosis with a plan of care for physical therapy services within the first 15 days of physical therapy intervention.</p>
Alaska	Unlimited	ARTICLE 4. PHYSICAL THERAPY STANDARDS OF PRACTICE. 12 AAC 54.500.	(c) To maintain a high standard of integrity in the profession and to safeguard the health and welfare of the public, physical therapists shall adhere to the ethical standards set out in the <i>Code of Ethics</i> , as amended as of June 2000, American Physical Therapy

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		PHYSICAL THERAPY STANDARDS	Association, and the <i>Guide for Professional Conduct</i> , as amended as of January 2004, American Physical Therapy Association. The <i>Code of Ethics</i> and the <i>Guide for Professional Conduct</i> are adopted by reference. APTA Guide for Professional Conduct Principle 4: E. Upon accepting a patient/client for physical therapy services, a physical therapist shall be responsible for: the examination, evaluation, and diagnosis of that individual; the prognosis and intervention; reexamination and modification of the plan of care; and the maintenance of adequate records, including progress reports. A physical therapist shall establish the plan of care and shall provide and/or supervise and direct the appropriate interventions. See Section 2.4. F. If the diagnostic process reveals findings that are outside the scope of the physical therapist's knowledge, experience, or expertise, the physical therapist shall so inform the patient/client and refer to an appropriate practitioner.
Arizona	Unlimited	AZ Revised Statutes: Title 32, Chapter 19 (Laws)  Arizona Administrative Code TITLE 4. PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS <a href="#">CHAPTER 24. BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY</a>  Article 3. Practice of Physical Therapy	32-2041. <a href="#">Lawful practice</a> A. A physical therapist shall refer a client to appropriate health care practitioners if the physical therapist has reasonable cause to believe symptoms or conditions are present that require services beyond the scope of practice or if physical therapy is contraindicated. B. A physical therapist shall adhere to the recognized standards of ethics of the physical therapy profession and as further established by rule. C. A physical therapist licensed under this chapter shall practice physical therapy as prescribed by this chapter.  R4-24-301. Lawful Practice A. A physical therapist shall provide the referring practitioner, if any, with information from the patient assessment, diagnosis, and plan of care. A physical therapist shall provide this information, verbally or in writing, after a patient is initially evaluated.
Arkansas	Limited	Arkansas State Board of Physical Therapy Practice Act Subchapter 1 – General Provisions 17-93-102. Definitions.	(7) "Practice of physical therapy" means: (A) Examining and evaluating patients with mechanical, physiological, and developmental impairments, functional limitations, and disability or other health-related conditions in order to determine a physical therapy diagnosis, prognosis, and planned therapeutic intervention; (B)(i) Alleviating impairments and functional limitations by designing, implementing, and modifying therapeutic interventions that include: (a) Therapeutic exercise; (b) Functional training in self-care as it relates to patient mobility and community access; (c) Manual therapy techniques, including soft tissue massage, manual traction, connective tissue massage, therapeutic massage, and mobilization, i.e., passive movement accomplished within normal range of

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			<p>motion of the joint, but excluding spinal manipulation and adjustment;</p> <p>(d) Assistive and adaptive devices and equipment as they relate to patient mobility and community access;</p> <p>(e) Physical agents;</p> <p>(f) Mechanical and electrotherapeutic modalities; and</p> <p>(g) Patient-related instruction.</p> <p>(ii) The therapeutic intervention of bronchopulmonary hygiene and debridement of wounds require a physician referral before initiation of treatment.</p> <p>(iii) Physical therapy does not include radiology or electrosurgery;</p> <p>(C) Preventing injury, impairments, functional limitations, and disability, including the promotion and maintenance of fitness, health, and quality of life in all age populations; and</p> <p>(D) Engaging in consultation, testing, education, and research;</p>
California	Limited	Physical Therapy Practice Act Chapter 5.7. Physical Therapy Article 2, General Provisions BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE SECTION 2620.1	<p>2620.1. (a) In addition to receiving those services authorized by Section 2620, a person may initiate physical therapy treatment directly from a licensed physical therapist if the treatment is within the scope of practice of physical therapists, as defined in Section 2620, and all of the following conditions are met:</p> <p>(1) If, at any time, the physical therapist has reason to believe that the patient has signs or symptoms of a condition that requires treatment beyond the scope of practice of a physical therapist or the patient is not progressing toward documented treatment goals as demonstrated by objective, measurable, or functional improvement, the physical therapist shall refer the patient to a person holding a physician and surgeon's certificate issued by the Medical Board of California or by the Osteopathic Medical Board of California or to a person licensed to practice dentistry, podiatric medicine, or chiropractic.</p> <p>(2) The physical therapist shall comply with Section 2633, and shall disclose to the patient any financial interest he or she has in treating the patient and, if working in a physical therapy corporation, shall comply with Article 6 (commencing with Section 650) of Chapter 1.</p> <p>(3) With the patient's written authorization, the physical therapist shall notify the patient's physician and surgeon, if any, that the physical therapist is treating the patient.</p> <p>(4) The physical therapist shall not continue treating the patient beyond 45 calendar days or 12 visits, whichever occurs first, without receiving, from a person holding a physician and surgeon's certificate from the Medical Board of California or the Osteopathic Medical Board of California or from a person holding a certificate to practice podiatric medicine from the California Board of Podiatric Medicine and acting within his or her scope of practice, a dated signature on the physical therapist's plan of care indicating approval of</p>

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			<p>the physical therapist's plan of care. Approval of the physical therapist's plan of care shall include an in-person patient examination and evaluation of the patient's condition and, if indicated, testing by the physician and surgeon or podiatrist.</p> <p>(b) The conditions in paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) do not apply to a physical therapist when he or she is only providing wellness physical therapy services to a patient as described in subdivision (a) of Section 2620.</p>
Colorado	Unlimited		No language to require a referral or directly states that a referral is not needed
District of Columbia	Limited	<p>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MUNICIPAL REGULATIONS for PHYSICAL THERAPY</p> <p>Chapter 67 Physical Therapy</p>	6710.13 If a physical therapy patient fails to respond to treatment within thirty (30) days after being seen by a physical therapist for the first time, the physical therapist shall refer the patient to an appropriate health care provider for assessment, medical diagnosis, intervention, or referral.
Connecticut	Limited	<p>CHAPTER 376* PHYSICAL THERAPISTS Physical Therapy Practice Act</p> <p><b>Sec. 31-275</b></p> <p>Workers' Compensation Act</p>	<p>Sec. 20-73. Licensure required for practice and use of title. Practice regulated. Fraud in obtaining licensure. Revocation of license.</p> <p>(b) (1) The treatment of human ailments by physical therapy shall only be performed by a person licensed under the provisions of this chapter as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant. Except as otherwise provided in subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection, such treatment may be performed by a licensed physical therapist without an oral or written referral by a person licensed in this state to practice medicine and surgery, podiatry, naturopathy, chiropractic or dentistry, or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a or a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-12d, provided the licensed physical therapist (A) was admitted to a bachelor's degree program prior to January 1, 1998, and has practiced physical therapy for at least four out of the most recent six years of his or her clinical practice, or earned a master's degree or higher in physical therapy from an accredited institution of higher education, (B) requires any person receiving such treatment to disclose or affirmatively confirm the identity of such person's primary care provider or health care provider of record upon each initial visit for treatment without an oral or written referral, (C) provides information to any person seeking such treatment regarding the need to consult with such person's primary care provider or health care provider of record regarding such person's underlying medical condition if the condition is prolonged, does not improve within a thirty-day period, or continues to require ongoing continuous treatment, and (D) refers any person receiving such treatment to an appropriate licensed practitioner of the healing arts if, upon</p>

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			<p>examination or reexamination, the same condition for which the person sought physical therapy does not demonstrate objective, measurable, functional improvement in a period of thirty consecutive days or at the end of six visits, whichever is earlier.</p> <p>(2) In any case in which a person seeking such treatment requires a Grade V spinal manipulation, such treatment shall only be performed (A) upon the oral or written referral of a person licensed in this state, or in a state having licensing requirements meeting the approval of the appropriate examining board in this state, to practice medicine and surgery, podiatry, naturopathy, chiropractic or dentistry, or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a or a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-12d, and (B) by a licensed physical therapist who (i) was admitted to a bachelor's degree program prior to January 1, 1998, and has practiced physical therapy for at least four out of the most recent six years of his or her clinical practice, or earned a master's degree or higher in physical therapy from an accredited institution of higher education, and (ii) holds a specialist certification in orthopedic physical therapy from the American Physical Therapy Association, or proof of completion of forty hours of course work in manual therapy, including Grade V spinal manipulation. Nothing in this section shall prevent a physical therapist from providing wellness care within the scope of physical therapy practice to asymptomatic persons without a referral. Nothing in this section shall require an employer or insurer to pay for such wellness care.</p> <p>(3) In any case involving an injury, as described in section 31-275, such treatment shall only be performed upon the oral or written referral of a person licensed in this state or in a state having licensing requirements meeting the standards set by the Department of Public Health and the appropriate examining board in this state to practice medicine and surgery, podiatry, naturopathy, chiropractic or dentistry, or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a or a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-12d.</p>
Delaware	Limited	Physical Therapy Practice Act  2600 Examining Board of Physical Therapists	2600 Examining Board of Physical Therapists 1.0 Definitions 1.1 Consultation (24 Del.C. §2612)  1.1.1 Consultation in direct access. A licensed health practitioner who has been granted prescriptive authority must be consulted if a patient is still receiving physical therapy after 30 calendar days have lapsed

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			<p>from the date of the initial assessment. This consultation must be documented and could take place at any time during the initial thirty day period. The consultation can be made by telephone, fax, in writing, or in person. There is nothing in these rules and regulations or in the Physical Therapy Law that limits the number of consultations the Physical Therapist can make on the patient’s behalf. The consult should be with the patient’s personal licensed health practitioner. If the patient does not have a personal licensed health practitioner, the Physical Therapist is to offer the patient at least three licensed health practitioner from which to choose. The referral to a licensed health practitioner after the initial thirty day period must not be in conflict with 24 Del.C. §2616(a)(8) which deals with referral for profit. If no licensed health practitioner consult has been made in this initial thirty day period, treatment must be terminated and no treatment may be resumed without a licensed health practitioner consult.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1.1.2 Consultation with written prescription from a licensed health practitioner. A prescription accompanying a patient must not be substantially modified without documented consultation with the referring practitioner. The consultation can be made by telephone, fax, in writing, or in person.</p>
Florida	Limited	<p>Title XXXII Regulation of Professionals and Occupations</p> <p>Chapter 486 Physical Therapy Practice</p>	<p>486.021 Definitions.</p> <p>(11) “Practice of physical therapy” means the performance of physical therapy assessments and the treatment of any disability, injury, disease, or other health condition of human beings, or the prevention of such disability, injury, disease, or other condition of health, and rehabilitation as related thereto by the use of the physical, chemical, and other properties of air; electricity; exercise; massage; the performance of acupuncture only upon compliance with the criteria set forth by the Board of Medicine, when no penetration of the skin occurs; the use of radiant energy, including ultraviolet, visible, and infrared rays; ultrasound; water; the use of apparatus and equipment in the application of the foregoing or related thereto; the performance of tests of neuromuscular functions as an aid to the diagnosis or treatment of any human condition; or the performance of electromyography as an aid to the diagnosis of any human condition only upon compliance with the criteria set forth by the Board of Medicine. A physical therapist may implement a plan of treatment for a patient. The physical therapist shall refer the patient to or consult with a health care practitioner licensed under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, chapter 461, or chapter 466, if the patient’s condition is found to be outside the scope of</p>

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			<p>physical therapy. If physical therapy treatment for a patient is required beyond 21 days for a condition not previously assessed by a practitioner of record, the physical therapist shall obtain a practitioner of record who will review and sign the plan. A health care practitioner licensed under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, chapter 461, or chapter 466 and engaged in active practice is eligible to serve as a practitioner of record. The use of roentgen rays and radium for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes and the use of electricity for surgical purposes, including cauterization, are not authorized under the term “physical therapy” as used in this chapter. The practice of physical therapy as defined in this chapter does not authorize a physical therapy practitioner to practice chiropractic medicine as defined in chapter 460, including specific spinal manipulation. For the performance of specific chiropractic spinal manipulation, a physical therapist shall refer the patient to a health care practitioner licensed under chapter 460. Nothing in this subsection authorizes a physical therapist to implement a plan of treatment for a patient currently being treated in a facility licensed pursuant to chapter 395.</p>
Georgia	Limited	<p>TITLE 43. PROFESSIONS AND BUSINESSES</p> <p>Chapter 33: Physical Therapists</p>	<p>§ 43-33-18. Refusal to grant or restore licenses; discipline of licensees; suspension, revocation, or restriction of licenses; immunity for violation reporters</p> <p>(a) The board shall have authority to refuse to grant or restore a license to an applicant or to discipline a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant licensed under this chapter or any antecedent law upon a finding by the board that the licensee or applicant has:</p> <p>(1) (A) Implemented or continued a program of physical therapy treatment without consultation with an appropriate licensed practitioner of the healing arts; except that a physical therapist may implement a program of physical therapy treatment without consultation with an appropriately licensed practitioner of the healing arts when:</p> <p>(i) Services are provided for the purpose of fitness, wellness, or prevention that is not related to the treatment of an injury or ailment; or</p> <p>(ii) (I) The patient was previously diagnosed and received treatment or services for that diagnosis and the patient returns to physical therapy within 60 days of discharge from physical therapy for problems and symptoms that are related to the initial referral to the physical therapist. In such a situation the physical therapist shall notify the original referral source of the return to physical therapy within five business days; and</p> <p>(II) The physical therapist holds a master or doctorate degree from a professional physical therapy program that is accredited by a national accreditation agency recognized by the United States Department of</p>



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			<p>Education and approved by the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy or the physical therapist has completed at least two years of practical experience as a licensed physical therapist.</p> <p>If after 90 days of initiating physical therapy services the physical therapist determines that no substantial progress has been made with respect to the primary complaints of the patient, the physical therapist shall refer the patient to an appropriately licensed practitioner of the healing arts. If at any time the physical therapist has reason to believe that the patient has symptoms or conditions that require treatment or services beyond the scope of practice of the physical therapist, the physical therapist shall refer the patient to an appropriately licensed practitioner of the healing arts;</p>
Hawaii	Unlimited	<p>Hawaii Administrative Rules</p> <p>Title 16 Dept of Commerce and Consumer Affairs</p> <p>Chapter 110 Phys Therapy</p>	<p>§16-110-3 When referrals required.</p> <p>A licensed physical therapist may perform an evaluation of any person without a referral. A physical therapist may treat a patient with or without a referral unless the physical therapist has reasonable cause to believe that the patient has a symptom or condition that is either beyond the physical therapist's scope of practice, or for which physical therapy is contraindicated, in which case the physical therapist shall refer that patient to an appropriate healthcare provider. [Eff 6/5/87; comp 12/4/92; am and comp 10/13/94; am and comp 12/9/10] (Auth: HRS §461J-5) (Imp: HRS §§461J-1, 461J-2, 461J-5)</p>
Idaho	Unlimited		<p>No language to require a referral or directly states that a referral is not needed</p>
Illinois	Limited	<p><a href="http://ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1319&amp;ChapAct=225%26nbsp%3BILCS%26nbsp%3B90%2F&amp;ChapterID=24&amp;ChapterName=PROFESSIONS+AND+OCCUPATIONS&amp;ActName=Illinois+Physical+Therapy+Act%2E">http://ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1319&amp;ChapAct=225%26nbsp%3BILCS%26nbsp%3B90%2F&amp;ChapterID=24&amp;ChapterName=PROFESSIONS+AND+OCCUPATIONS&amp;ActName=Illinois+Physical+Therapy+Act%2E</a></p>	<p>(225 ILCS 90/1) (from Ch. 111, par. 4251) Sec. 1. Definitions. As used in this Act:</p> <p>Nothing in this Section shall limit a physical therapist from employing appropriate physical therapy techniques that he or she is educated and licensed to perform. A physical therapist shall refer to a licensed physician, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, dentist, or podiatrist any patient whose medical condition should, at the time of evaluation or treatment, be determined to be beyond the scope of practice of the physical therapist.</p> <p>(6) "Referral" means a written or oral authorization for physical therapy services for a patient by a physician, dentist, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or podiatrist who maintains medical supervision of the patient and makes a diagnosis or verifies that the patient's condition is such that it may be treated by a physical therapist.</p> <p>(7) "Documented current and relevant diagnosis" for the purpose of this Act means a diagnosis, substantiated by signature or oral verification of a</p>

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			<p>physician, dentist, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or podiatrist, that a patient's condition is such that it may be treated by physical therapy as defined in this Act, which diagnosis shall remain in effect until changed by the physician, dentist, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or podiatrist.</p> <p>Sec. 17. (1) The Department may refuse to issue or to renew, or may revoke, suspend, place on probation, reprimand, or take other disciplinary action as the Department deems appropriate, including the issuance of fines not to exceed \$5000, with regard to a license for any one or a combination of the following:</p> <p>V. Having treated ailments of human beings otherwise than by the practice of physical therapy as defined in this Act, or having treated ailments of human beings as a licensed physical therapist independent of a documented referral or a documented current and relevant diagnosis from a physician, dentist, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or podiatrist, or having failed to notify the physician, dentist, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or podiatrist who established a documented current and relevant diagnosis that the patient is receiving physical therapy pursuant to that diagnosis;</p>
Indiana	Limited	Section 3. IC 25-27-1-2.5	<p>Evaluations and treatment without a referral; exceptions</p> <p>Sec. 2.5. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), a physical therapist may evaluate and treat an individual during a period not to exceed twenty-four (24) calendar days beginning with the date of the initiation of treatment without a referral from a provider described in section 2(b) of this chapter. However, if the individual needs additional treatment from the physical therapist after twenty-four (24) calendar days, the physical therapist shall obtain a referral from the individual's provider, as described in section 2(b) of this chapter.</p> <p>(b) A physical therapist may not perform spinal manipulation of the spinal column or the vertebral column unless:</p> <p>(1) the physical therapist is acting on the order or referral of a physician, an osteopath, or a chiropractor; and</p> <p>(2) the referring physician, osteopath, or chiropractor has examined the patient before issuing the order or referral.</p>
Iowa	Unlimited	Iowa Code CHAPTER 148A PHYSICAL THERAPY	<p>148A.1 DEFINITIONS -- REFERRAL -- AUTHORIZATION.</p> <p>2. Physical therapy evaluation and treatment may be rendered by a physical therapist with or without a referral from a physician, podiatric physician, dentist, or chiropractor, except that a hospital may require that physical therapy evaluation and treatment provided in the hospital shall be done only upon prior review by and authorization of a member of the hospital's</p>

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			medical staff.
Kansas	Limited	Chapter 65.--PUBLIC HEALTH Article 29.--PHYSICAL THERAPY 65-2921.	<p>65-2921.</p> <p>(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d), a physical therapist may evaluate and initiate physical therapy treatment on a patient without referral from a licensed health care practitioner. If treating a patient without a referral from a licensed health care practitioner and the patient is not progressing toward documented treatment goals as demonstrated by objective, measurable or functional improvement, or any combination thereof, after 10 patient visits or in a period of 15 business days from the initial treatment visits following the initial evaluation visit, the physical therapist shall obtain a referral from an appropriate licensed health care practitioner prior to continuing treatment.</p> <p>(b) Physical therapists may provide, without a referral, services to: (1) Employees solely for the purpose of education and instruction related to workplace injury prevention; or (2) the public for the purpose of fitness, health promotion and education.</p> <p>(c) Physical therapists may provide services without a referral to special education students who need physical therapy services to fulfill the provisions of their individualized education plan (IEP) or individualized family service plan (IFSP).</p> <p>(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent a hospital or ambulatory surgical center from requiring a physician order or referral for physical therapy services for a patient currently being treated in such facility.</p> <p>(e) When a patient self-refers to a physical therapist pursuant to this section, the physical therapist, prior to commencing treatment, shall provide written notice to the patient that a physical therapy diagnosis is not a medical diagnosis by a physician.</p> <p>(f) Physical therapists shall perform wound debridement services only after approval by a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery or other licensed health care practitioner in appropriately related cases.</p> <p>(g) As used in this section, "licensed health care practitioner" means a person licensed to practice</p>

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Kentucky	Unlimited	<p>KENTUCKY REVISED STATUTES BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY CHAPTER 327 (effective April 10, 2008)</p>	<p>201 KAR 22:010. Objectives of physical therapy. Section 2. Patient Management. Adequate, effective, and efficient patient care is the ultimate goal of physical therapy. The physical therapist evaluates each patient, and determines those ways in which he can contribute to total health management. He then plans and implements a treatment program, reevaluating and making modifications as necessary. A physical therapist shall refer to a licensed physician or dentist any patient whose medical condition should, at the time of evaluation or treatment, be determined to be beyond the scope of practice of the physical therapist. When basis for treatment is referral, the physical therapist may confer with the referring physician, podiatrist, dentist, or chiropractor</p>
Louisiana	Limited	<p>PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTICE ACT Louisiana Revised Statutes 37:2401-37:2421 CHAPTER 29. PHYSICAL THERAPISTS §2410. Practice</p>	<p>A. No person licensed under this Chapter shall practice physical therapy or act as a physical therapist, except upon the prescription or referral of a person licensed to practice medicine, surgery, dentistry, podiatry, or chiropractor. Initial evaluation or consultation of a screening nature to determine the need for physical therapy may be performed by a physical therapist without referral, but implementation of physical therapy treatment to individuals for their specific condition or conditions shall be based on the prescription or referral of a person licensed to practice medicine, surgery, dentistry, chiropractor, or podiatry. D. A physical therapist licensed under this Chapter shall not perform physical therapy services without a prescription or referral from a person licensed to practice medicine, surgery, dentistry, podiatry, or chiropractic. However, a physical therapist licensed under this Chapter may perform physical therapy services without a prescription or referral under the following circumstances: (1) To children with a diagnosed developmental disability pursuant to the patient's plan of care. (2) As part of a home health care agency pursuant to the patient's plan of care. (3) To a patient in a nursing home pursuant to the patient's plan of care. (4) Related to conditioning or to providing education or activities in a wellness setting for the purpose of injury prevention, reduction of stress, or promotion of fitness. (5) (a) To an individual for a previously diagnosed condition or conditions for which physical therapy services are appropriate after informing the health care</p>

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			<p>provider rendering the diagnosis. The diagnosis shall have been made within the previous ninety days. The physical therapist shall provide the health care provider who rendered such diagnosis with a plan of care for physical therapy services within the first fifteen days of physical therapy intervention.</p> <p>(b) Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to create liability of any kind for the health care provider rendering the diagnosis pursuant to this Subsection for a condition, illness, or injury that manifested itself after such diagnosis or for any alleged damages as a result of physical therapy services performed without a prescription or referral from a person licensed to practice medicine, surgery, dentistry, podiatry, or chiropractic.</p> <p>E. Physical therapy service performed without a prescription or referral from a person licensed to practice medicine, surgery, dentistry, podiatry, or chiropractic shall not be construed to mandate coverage for physical therapy services under any health care plan, insurance policy, or workers' compensation or circumvent any requirement for pre-authorization of services in accordance with any health care plan, insurance policy, or workers' compensation.</p>
Maine	Limited	<p>Title 32: PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS Chapter 45-A: PHYSICAL THERAPIST PRACTICE ACT</p> <p>§3113-A. License required; limitations and exceptions</p>	<p>Nothing in this chapter may be construed as authorizing a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant, licensed or not licensed, to practice medicine, osteopathy, dentistry, chiropractic or any other form of healing, except that physical therapists may utilize manipulative techniques if practiced within the scope of their profession. Physical therapists may not apply manipulative thrust to the vertebrae of the spine except upon consultation with, and referral by, a duly licensed doctor of medicine, surgery, chiropractic or osteopathy. A licensed physical therapist or physical therapist assistant may not administer drugs except upon the referral of a duly licensed doctor of medicine, surgery, osteopathy, podiatry or dentistry, and may not use roentgen rays or radium or use electricity for surgical purposes. A licensed physical therapist assistant may act only under the direction of a physical therapist licensed to practice in this State.</p> <p>When treating a patient without referral from a doctor of medicine, osteopathy, podiatry, dentistry or chiropractic, the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant is subject to the following requirements. [1991, c. 178, §3 (NEW).]</p> <p>1. No medical diagnosis. A physical therapist or physical therapist assistant may not make a medical diagnosis. The physical therapist or physical therapist assistant shall refer to a licensed doctor of medicine, osteopathy, podiatry, dentistry or chiropractic a patient whose physical condition, either at the initial evaluation or during subsequent treatment, the</p>

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			<p>physical therapist or physical therapist assistant determines to be beyond the scope of the practice of the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant. [ 1991, c. 178, §3 (NEW) .]</p> <p>2. No improvement. If no improvement in the patient is documented by the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant within 30 days of initiation of treatment, the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant shall refer the patient to a licensed doctor of medicine, osteopathy, podiatry, dentistry or chiropractic. [ 1991, c. 178, §3 (NEW) .]</p> <p>3. Length of treatment. For treatment required beyond 120 days, the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant shall consult with, or refer the patient to, a licensed doctor of medicine, surgery, osteopathy, podiatry, dentistry or chiropractic. The physical therapist or physical therapist assistant shall document the action taken. [ 1991, c. 178, §3 (NEW) .]</p> <p>An employer is not liable under Title 39-A, section 206 for charges for services of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant unless the employee has been referred to that practitioner by a licensed doctor of medicine, surgery, osteopathy, chiropractic, podiatry or dentistry. [1991, c. 885, Pt. E, §41 (AMD); 1991, c. 885, Pt. E, §47 (AFF).]</p>
Maryland	Unlimited		No language to require a referral or directly states that a referral is not needed
Massachusetts	Unlimited		No language to require a referral or directly states that a referral is not needed
Michigan	Limited	MI Code 333 §17820.1	<p>Sec. 17820. (1) An individual shall not engage in the practice of physical therapy or practice as a physical therapist assistant unless licensed or otherwise authorized under this part... A physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant may engage in the treatment of a patient without the prescription of a health care professional who holds a license issued under part 166, 170, 175, or 180, or the equivalent license issued by another state, under either of the following circumstances:</p> <p>(a) For 21 days or 10 treatments, whichever first occurs. However, a physical therapist shall determine that the patient’s condition requires physical therapy before delegating physical therapy interventions to a physical therapist assistant.</p> <p>(b) The patient is seeking physical therapy services for the purpose of preventing injury or promoting fitness.</p>
Minnesota	Limited	MN PT Practice Act December 2008	<p>148.7 5 DISCIPLINARY ACTION.</p> <p>(a) The board may impose disciplinary action specified in paragraph (b) against an applicant or licensee whom the board, by a preponderance of the evidence,</p>

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			<p>determines:</p> <p>(8) has treated human ailments by physical therapy after an initial 90-day period of patient admittance to treatment has lapsed, except by the order or referral of a person licensed in this state in the practice of medicine as defined in section 147.081, the practice of chiropractic as defined in section 148.01, the practice of podiatry as defined in section 153.0i, or the practice of dentistry as defined in section 1504.05, or the practice of advance practice nursing as defined in section 148.111, subdivision 3, when orders or referrals are made in and whose license is in collaboration with a physician, chiropractor, podiatrist, or dentist, and whose license is in good standing; or when a previous diagnosis exists indicating an ongoing condition warranting physical therapy treatment, subject to periodic review defined by board of physical therapy rule. The 90-day limitation of treatment by a physical therapist without an order or referral does not apply to prevention, wellness, education, or exercise;</p> <p>(9) for a physical therapist licensed less than one year, has treated human ailments, without referral, by physical therapy treatment without first having practiced one year in collaboration with a physical therapist with more than one year of experience or under a physician's orders or referrals as verified by the board's records;</p> <p>From MN Board of PT Website: Summary of 2008 statute revision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moves the definition of a licensed health care professional or provider from rule to statute;</li> <li>• Changes the time frame from 30 days to 90 days during which a patient may be treated by a physical therapist without an order or referral from a physician, chiropractor, dentist, podiatrist, or advanced practice nurse;</li> <li>• Allows a physical therapist, who has been licensed for less than one year, to provide physical therapy without referral: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o when working in collaboration with a physical therapist who has more than one year of experience or</li> <li>o under a physician's orders or referrals;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Expands the requirement that a physical therapist refer a patient to a licensed health care professional at any time during the care if the patient's medical condition is beyond the scope of a physical therapist;</li> <li>• Allows direct access without a time limitation for patients being treated by a physical therapist for prevention, wellness, education, or exercise; and</li> <li>• Requires the Board of Physical Therapy to provide a report to the legislature regarding any disciplinary actions taken against physical therapists whose conduct resulted in physical harm to a patient, if that conduct was the result of the 2008 statutory changes.</li> </ul>
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Mississippi	Limited	<p>Title 73. Professions and Vocations Chapter 23. Physical Therapists</p> <p>§ 73-23-35. Licensing requirement; performing services without a prescription</p>	<p>(3) A physical therapist licensed under this chapter shall not perform physical therapy services without a prescription or referral from a person licensed as a physician, dentist, osteopath, podiatrist, chiropractor, physician assistant or nurse practitioner. However, a physical therapist licensed under this chapter may perform physical therapy services without a prescription or referral under the following circumstances:</p> <p>(a) To children with a diagnosed developmental disability pursuant to the patient's plan of care.</p> <p>(b) As part of a home health care agency pursuant to the patient's plan of care.</p> <p>(c) To a patient in a nursing home pursuant to the patient's plan of care.</p> <p>(d) Related to conditioning or to providing education or activities in a wellness setting for the purpose of injury prevention, reduction of stress or promotion of fitness.</p> <p>(e)(i) To an individual for a previously diagnosed condition or conditions for which physical therapy services are appropriate after informing the health care provider rendering the diagnosis. The diagnosis must have been made within the previous one hundred eighty (180) days. The physical therapist shall provide the health care provider who rendered the diagnosis with a plan of care for physical therapy services within the first fifteen (15) days of physical therapy intervention.</p> <p>(ii) Nothing in this chapter shall create liability of any kind for the health care provider rendering the diagnosis under this paragraph (e) for a condition, illness or injury that manifested itself after the diagnosis, or for any alleged damages as a result of physical therapy services performed without a prescription or referral from a person licensed as a physician, dentist, osteopath, podiatrist, chiropractor, physician assistant or nurse practitioner, the diagnosis and/or prescription for physical therapy services having been rendered with reasonable care.</p> <p>(4) Physical therapy services performed without a prescription or referral from a person licensed as a physician, dentist, osteopath, podiatrist, chiropractor, physician assistant or nurse practitioner shall not be construed to mandate coverage for physical therapy services under any health care plan, insurance policy, or workers' compensation or circumvent any requirement for preauthorization of services in accordance with any health care plan, insurance policy or workers' compensation.</p>
Missouri	Limited	<p>Chapter 334 Physicians and Surgeons--Therapists--Athletic Trainers--Health Care Section 334.506</p>	<p>Physical therapists may provide certain services without prescription or direction of an approved health care provider, when--limitations.</p> <p>334.506. 1. As used in this section, "approved health care provider" means a person holding a current and</p>



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			<p>active license as a physician and surgeon under this chapter, a chiropractor under chapter 331, RSMo, a dentist under chapter 332, RSMo, a podiatrist under chapter 330, RSMo, a physician assistant under this chapter, or any licensed and registered physician, chiropractor, dentist, or podiatrist practicing in another jurisdiction whose license is in good standing.</p> <p>2. A physical therapist shall not initiate treatment for a new injury or illness without a prescription from an approved health care provider.</p> <p>3. A physical therapist may provide educational resources and training, develop fitness or wellness programs for asymptomatic persons, or provide screening or consultative services within the scope of physical therapy practice without the prescription and direction of an approved health care provider.</p> <p>4. A physical therapist may examine and treat without the prescription and direction of an approved health care provider any person with a recurring self-limited injury within one year of diagnosis by an approved health care provider or a chronic illness that has been previously diagnosed by an approved health care provider. The physical therapist shall:</p> <p>(1) Contact the patient's current approved health care provider within seven days of initiating physical therapy services under this subsection;</p> <p>(2) Not change an existing physical therapy referral available to the physical therapist without approval of the patient's current approved health care provider;</p> <p>(3) Refer to an approved health care provider any patient whose medical condition at the time of examination or treatment is determined to be beyond the scope of practice of physical therapy;</p> <p>(4) Refer to an approved health care provider any patient whose condition for which physical therapy services are rendered under this subsection has not been documented to be progressing toward documented treatment goals after six visits or fourteen days, whichever first occurs;</p> <p>(5) Notify the patient's current approved health care provider prior to the continuation of treatment if treatment rendered under this subsection is to continue beyond thirty days. The physical therapist shall provide such notification for each successive period of thirty days.</p>
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			<p>5. The provision of physical therapy services of evaluation and screening pursuant to this section shall be limited to a physical therapist, and any authority for evaluation and screening granted within this section may not be delegated. Upon each reinitiation of physical therapy services, a physical therapist shall provide a full physical therapy evaluation prior to the reinitiation of physical therapy treatment. Physical therapy treatment provided pursuant to the provisions of subsection 4 of this section may be delegated by physical therapists to physical therapist assistants only if the patient's current approved health care provider has been so informed as part of the physical therapist's seven-day notification upon reinitiation of physical therapy services as required in subsection 4 of this section. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as to limit the ability of physical therapists or physical therapist assistants to provide physical therapy services in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, and upon the referral of an approved health care provider. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit an approved health care provider from acting within the scope of their practice as defined by the applicable chapters of RSMo.</p> <p>6. No person licensed to practice, or applicant for licensure, as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant shall make a medical diagnosis.</p>
Montana	Limited	<p>Montana Annotated Code</p> <p>TITLE 37. PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS CHAPTER 11. PHYSICAL THERAPY</p> <p>Part 1. General</p>	<p>37-11-104. Physical therapy -- evaluation and treatment. (1) Physical therapy evaluation includes the administration, interpretation, and evaluation of tests and measurements of bodily functions and structures; the development of a plan of treatment; consultative, educational, and other advisory services; and instruction and supervision of supportive personnel.</p> <p>(2) Treatment employs, for therapeutic effects, physical measures, activities and devices, for preventive and therapeutic purposes, exercises, rehabilitative procedures, massage, mobilization, and physical agents including but not limited to mechanical devices, heat, cold, air, light, water, electricity, and sound.</p> <p>(3) The evaluation and treatment procedures listed in subsections (1) and (2) may be performed by a licensed physical therapist without referral.</p>
Nebraska	Unlimited		No language to require a referral or directly states that a referral is not needed
Nevada	Unlimited		No language to require a referral or directly states that a referral is not needed
New Hampshire	Limited	<p>TITLE XXX OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS CHAPTER 328-A PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTICE ACT Section 328-A:9</p>	<p>328-A:9 Lawful Practice. –</p> <p>I. A physical therapist licensed under this chapter is fully authorized to practice physical therapy as defined herein.</p> <p>II. A physical therapist shall refer a patient or client to appropriate health care practitioners when:</p> <p>(a) The physical therapist has reasonable cause to</p>

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New Jersey	Limited	<p>Physical Therapist Licensing Act</p> <p>Regulations: CHAPTER39A STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY</p>	<p>(14) Within 180 days of the effective date of P.L.2003, c.18, establish standards in accordance with the provisions of section 22 of P.L.2003, c.18 (C.45:9-37.34c), in collaboration with the State Board of Medical Examiners and other appropriate professional licensing boards established pursuant to Title 45 of the Revised Statutes, setting forth the conditions under which a physical therapist is required to refer an individual being treated by a physical therapist to or consult with a practitioner licensed to practice dentistry, podiatry or medicine and surgery in this State, or other appropriate licensed health care professional. Pending adoption of the standards: (a) a physical therapist shall refer any individual who has failed to demonstrate reasonable progress within 30 days of the date of initial treatment to a licensed health care professional; and (b) a physical therapist, not more than 30 days from the date of initial treatment of functional limitation or pain, shall consult with the individual's licensed health care professional of record as to the appropriateness of the treatment, or, in the event that there is no identified licensed health care professional of record, recommend that the individual consult with a licensed health care professional of the individual's choice;</p> <p>45:9-37.34c Failure to refer patient, certain circumstances, unlawful practice.</p> <p>22. It shall be considered an unlawful practice of physical therapy if a physical therapist does not immediately refer an individual to a health care professional licensed to practice dentistry, podiatry or medicine and surgery, or other appropriate licensed health care professional, if the physical therapist has reasonable cause to believe that physical therapy is contraindicated or symptoms or conditions are present, including, but not limited to, nonmuscular and nonskeletal symptoms or conditions and conditions of the central nervous system, that require services outside the scope of a physical therapist's practice.</p> <p>13:39A-2.5 Referral of patients and consultation standards for licensed physical therapists (a) A licensed physical therapist shall refer a patient to a health care professional licensed to practice dentistry, podiatry or medicine and surgery in this State, or other appropriate licensed health care professional:</p> <p>I. When the licensed physical therapist during the examination, evaluation or intervention has reason to believe that physical therapy is contraindicated or symptoms or conditions are present that require</p>

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			<p>services outside the scope of practice of the licensed physical therapist; or</p> <p>2. When the patient has failed to demonstrate reasonable progress within 30 days of the date of the initial treatment.</p> <p>(b) Not more than 30 days from the date of initial treatment of functional limitation or pain, a licensed physical therapist shall inform the patient's licensed health care professional of record regarding the patient's plan of care. In the event there is no identified licensed health care professional of record, the licensed physical therapist shall recommend that the patient consult with a licensed health care professional of the patient's choice. In a school setting, the schedule of physical therapy services shall be reported to the child DEPT. OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY study team by the licensed physical therapist within 30 days of the date of initial treatment.</p> <p>(c) A violation of this section shall be deemed professional misconduct pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:39A-3.8.</p>
New Mexico	Limited	<p>TITLE 16 OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING CHAPTER 20 PHYSICAL THERAPISTS</p> <p>PART 10 DIRECT CARE REQUIREMENTS 16.20.10.8</p>	<p>16.20.10.8 DIRECT CARE REQUIREMENTS:</p> <p>A. A physical therapist shall not accept a patient for treatment without an existing medical diagnosis for the specific medical or physical problem made by a licensed primary care provider, except for those children participating in special education programs in accordance with Section 22-13-5 NMSA 1978 and for acute care within the scope of practice of physical therapy. For the purposes of this subsection, "existing medical diagnosis" means substantive signs and symptoms consistent with the episode from a previous primary care provider diagnosis made or confirmed by that provider within the past twelve (12) months.</p> <p>B. When physical therapy services are commenced under the same diagnosis, such diagnosis and plan of treatment must be communicated to the patient's primary health care provider at intervals of at least once every sixty (60) days, unless otherwise indicated by the primary care provider. Such communication will be deemed complete as noted in the patient's medical record by the physical therapist. [12-15-97; 16.20.10.8 NMAC - Rn, 16 NMAC 20.10.8, 08-31-00]</p>
New York	Limited	<p>Education Law Article 136, Physical Therapy and Physical Therapist Assistants</p> <p>NY Laws &amp; Regulations Part 77 Physical Therapy</p>	<p>§ 6731. Definition of physical therapy. Physical therapy is defined as: Such treatment may be rendered by a licensed physical therapist for ten visits or thirty days, whichever shall occur first, without a referral from a physician, dentist, podiatrist, nurse practitioner or licensed midwife provided that:</p> <p>1. The licensed physical therapist has practiced physical therapy on a full time basis equivalent to not less</p>

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			<p>than three years.</p> <p>2. Each physical therapist licensed pursuant to this article shall provide written notice to each patient receiving treatment absent a referral from a physician, dentist, podiatrist, nurse practitioner or licensed midwife that physical therapy may not be covered by the patient's health care plan or insurer without such a referral and that such treatment may be a covered expense if rendered pursuant to a referral. The physical therapist shall keep on file with the patient's records a form attesting to the patient's notice of such advice. Such form shall be in duplicate, with one copy to be retained by the patient, signed and dated by both the physical therapist and the patient in such form as prescribed pursuant to regulations promulgated by the commissioner.</p> <p>§77.9 Providing treatment in the practice of physical therapy without referral. (Effective November 23, 2006)</p> <p>a. In accordance with Education Law section 6731(d), a licensed physical therapist may provide a patient with treatment in the practice of physical therapy without a referral from a physician, dentist, podiatrist, or nurse practitioner, for 10 visits or 30 days whichever occurs first, provided the licensed physical therapist meets the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the licensed physical therapist has practiced physical therapy on a full-time basis equivalent to not less than three years prior to beginning such treatment, meaning the licensed physical therapist has completed at least 4,320 clock hours of physical therapy practice over a minimum of 36 months anytime prior to beginning such treatment; and</li> <li>2. the licensed physical therapist meets all requirements of subdivision (b) of this section relating to the notice of advice.</li> </ol> <p>b. Notice of advice. A physical therapist providing treatment in the practice of physical therapy without a referral from a physician, dentist, podiatrist, or nurse practitioner, in accordance with Education</p>
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			<p>Law section 6731(d) and the requirements of this section, shall advise the patient in writing prior to beginning treatment of the possibility that treatment may not be covered by the patient's health care plan or insurer without a referral from a physician, dentist, podiatrist, or nurse practitioner and that treatment may be a covered expense if rendered pursuant to such referral. This notice of advice shall be provided on a form, a copy of which shall be kept on file by the licensed physical therapist as a patient record and a copy of which shall be given to the patient. The notice of advice form shall include the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. a statement of such advice and a statement attesting that the patient has read the notice of advice;</li> <li>2. the date treatment will begin;</li> <li>3. the patient's name and address;</li> <li>4. the patient's signature and date the patient signed the form;</li> <li>5. the treating physical therapist's name and address; and</li> <li>6. the treating physical therapist's signature and the date the physical therapist signed the form.</li> </ol>
North Carolina	Limited	<p>G.S. 90-270.24-90-270.39 PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTICE ACT: NORTH CAROLINA Effective: December 30, 1985 Fee Schedule Amended: 1999 Continuing Competence Amended: 2006 Article 18B Physical Therapy (Posted 01-26-07)</p>	<p><b>90-270.24. Definitions.</b> Physical therapy does not include the application of roentgen rays or radioactive materials, surgery, manipulation of the spine unless prescribed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in North Carolina, or medical diagnosis of disease. <b>90-270.35. Unlawful practice.</b> Except as otherwise authorized in this act, if any person, firm, or corporation shall: (4) Practice physical therapy and fail to refer to a licensed medical doctor or dentist any patient whose medical condition should have, at the time of evaluation or treatment, been determined to be beyond the scope of practice of a physical therapist;</p>
North Dakota	Unlimited		<p>No language to require a referral or directly states that a referral is not needed</p>
Ohio	Limited	<p>Laws and Rules Regulating the Practice of Physical Therapy as of May 1, 20</p> <p>Chapter 4755. of the Ohio Revised Code Chapters 4755-21 to 4755-29 of the Ohio Administrative Code 10</p>	<p><b>4755.48 Violations.</b> (H)(1) Except as provided in division (H)(2) of this section and subject to division (I) of this section, no person shall practice physical therapy other than on the prescription of, or the referral of a patient by a person who is licensed in this or another state to do at least one of the following:  (a) Practice medicine and surgery, chiropractic, dentistry, osteopathic medicine and surgery, podiatric</p>

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			<p>medicine and surgery;</p> <p>(b) Practice as a physician assistant;</p> <p>(c) Practice nursing as a certified registered nurse anesthetist, clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse-midwife or certified nurse practitioner.</p> <p>(2) The prohibition in division (H)(1) of this section on practicing physical therapy other than on the prescription of, or the referral of a patient by, any of the persons described in that division does not apply if either of the following applies to the person:</p> <p>(a) The person holds a master’s or doctorate degree from a professional physical therapy program that is accredited by a national physical therapy accreditation agency recognized by the United States department of education.</p> <p>(b) On or before December 31, 2004, the person has completed at least two years of practical experience as a licensed physical therapist.</p> <p>Division (I) To be authorized to prescribe physical therapy or refer a patient to a physical therapist for physical therapy, a person described in division (H)(1) of this section must be in good standing with the relevant licensing board in this state or the state in which the person is licensed and must act only within the person’s scope of practice.</p> <p><b>4755.481 Practice without a prescription or referral.</b></p> <p>(A) If a physical therapist evaluates and treats a patient without the prescription of, or the referral of the patient by, a person described in division (H)(1) of section 4755.48 of the Revised Code, all of the following apply:</p> <p>(1) The physical therapist shall, upon consent of the patient, inform the relevant person described in division (H)(1) of section 4755.48 of the Revised Code of the evaluation not later than five business days after the evaluation is made.</p> <p>(2) If the physical therapist determines, based on reasonable evidence, that no substantial progress has been made with respect to that patient during the thirty-day period immediately following the date of the patient’s initial visit with the physical therapist, the</p>
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			<p>physical therapist shall consult with or refer the patient to a person described in division (H)(1) of section 4755.48 of the Revised Code, unless either of the following applies:</p> <p>(a) The evaluation, treatment, or services are being provided for fitness, wellness, or prevention purposes.</p> <p>(b) The patient previously was diagnosed with chronic, neuromuscular, or developmental conditions and the evaluation, treatment, or services are being provided for problems or symptoms associated with one or more of those previously diagnosed conditions</p> <p>(3) If the physical therapist determines that orthotic devices are necessary to treat the patient, the physical therapist shall be limited to the application of the following orthotic devices:</p> <p>(a) Upper extremity adaptive equipment used to facilitate the activities of daily living;</p> <p>(b) Finger splints;</p> <p>(c) Wrist splints;</p> <p>(d) Prefabricated elastic or fabric abdominal supports with or without metal or plastic reinforcing stays and other prefabricated soft goods requiring minimal fitting;</p> <p>(e) Nontherapeutic accommodative inlays;</p> <p>(f) Shoes that are not manufactured or modified for a particular individual;</p> <p>(g) Prefabricated foot care products;</p> <p>(h) Custom foot orthotics;</p> <p>(i) Durable medical equipment.</p> <p>(4) If, at any time, the physical therapist has reason to believe that the patient has symptoms or conditions that require treatment or services beyond the scope of practice of a physical therapist, the physical therapist shall refer the patient to a licensed health care practitioner acting within the practitioner's scope of practice.</p>
Oklahoma	Limited	OK Code 59 §887.17. Referrals by physicians and surgeons - Agents - Exceptions	<p><i>Section 887.17 A. 1. Any Except for workers' compensation claims, any person licensed under the Physical Therapy Practice Act as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant shall be able to evaluate and treat human ailments by physical therapy on a patient without a referral from a licensed health care practitioner for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days. Treatment may be provided by a physical therapist assistant under the supervision of a physical therapist. Any treatment provided beyond the thirty-day period shall be only under the referral of a person licensed as a physician or surgeon with unlimited license, or the physician assistant of the person so licensed, and Doctors of Dentistry, Chiropractic and Podiatry, with those referrals being limited to their respective areas of</i></p>



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			<i>training and practice;</i>
Oregon	Limited	Chapter 688 Therapeutic and Technical Services: Physical Therapists; Radiologic Technologists and Radiation Therapists; Hemodialysis Technicians; Athletic Trainers; Respiratory Therapists 688.132	2013-05 Regulations are being rewritten for unlimited direct access.
Pennsylvania	Limited	CHAPTER 40. STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY Subchapter A. PHYSICAL THERAPISTS	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRACTICE WITHOUT PHYSICIAN REFERRAL</b></p> <p><b>§ 40.61. Certificate of authorization to practice physical therapy without a referral.</b></p> <p>(a) An applicant for certification of authorization to practice physical therapy without the referral of a licensed physician shall submit evidence satisfactory to the Board, on forms supplied by the Board, that the applicant has met the following requirements:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(1) Holds a current license to practice physical therapy in this Commonwealth.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(2) Has done one of the following:</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">(i) Passed the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) after January 1, 1990.</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">(ii) Passed the NPTE prior to January 1, 1990 and successfully completed, within 2 years prior to application, a Board approved course consisting of at least 10 hours on the appropriate evaluative and screening procedures to determine the need for further examination or consultation by a physician, dentist or podiatrist prior to initiating treatment without a referral. The Board will maintain a list of currently approved courses.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(3) Has done one of the following:</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">(i) Practiced physical therapy in the delivery of patient care on a continuous basis for at least 2 years immediately preceding the application for certificate of authorization.</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">(ii) Been licensed by endorsement and practiced physical therapy in the delivery of patient care as a licensed physical therapist in the other state on a</p>

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			<p>continuous basis for at least 2 years immediately preceding the application for certificate of authorization.</p> <p>(iii) Provided proof of meeting these practice requirements through any combination of subparagraphs (i) and (ii).</p> <p>(iv) For purposes of this section, “practice of physical therapy on a continuous basis” is defined as a minimum of 200 hours each year in the delivery of direct patient care.</p> <p>(4) Has obtained professional liability insurance under the requirements of § 40.62 (relating to liability insurance).</p> <p>(b) A certificateholder shall display the certificate of authorization in a manner conspicuous to the public.</p> <p>(c) A certificateholder may not delegate the care of a patient being treated without a referral to a physical therapist who is not a certificateholder.</p> <p>(d) A certificateholder shall refer patients to a licensed physician or other appropriate health care practitioner in the following cases:</p> <p>(1) Cases where symptoms are present for which physical therapy is a contraindication.</p> <p>(2) Cases for which treatment is outside the scope of practice of physical therapy.</p> <p>(3) Cases for which treatment is beyond the education, expertise or experience of the physical therapist.</p> <p>(e) A certificateholder may treat a person without a referral as provided in this chapter for up to 30 calendar days from the date of the first treatment. A physical therapist may not treat a person beyond 30 days from the date of the first treatment unless the person has obtained a referral from a licensed physician, dentist or podiatrist. The date of the first treatment for purposes of this subsection is the date the person is treated by any physical therapist treating without a referral.</p> <p>(f) A certificateholder may not treat a condition in any person which is a nonneurologic, nonmuscular or nonskeletal condition or treat a person who has an acute cardiac or acute pulmonary condition unless the</p>
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			certificateholder has consulted with the person's licensed physician, dentist or podiatrist regarding the person's condition and the physical therapy treatment plan or has referred the person to a licensed physician, dentist or podiatrist for diagnosis and referral.
Puerto Rico -No information available			
Rhode Island	Limited	Rules and Regulations For Licensing Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants (R5-40-PT/PTA)  Section 7.0 The Practice of Physical Therapy	7.1 Whenever a patient seeks or receives treatment from a physical therapist without referral from a doctor of medicine, osteopathy, dentistry, podiatry, or chiropractic, the physical therapist shall: a) disclose to the patient in writing the scope and limitations of the practice of physical therapy and shall obtain their consent thereto in writing (see reference 5 herein); and b) refer the patient to such a practitioner within ninety (90) days after the date treatment commenced; provided, however, a physical therapist shall not be required to make such a referral after treatment is concluded. c) no physical therapist who shall have less than one (1) year clinical experience as a physical therapist shall commence treatment on a patient without a referral from a doctor of medicine, osteopathy, dentistry, podiatry, or chiropractic.
South Carolina	Limited	South Carolina Code of Laws  Title 40 - Professions and Occupations  CHAPTER 45. PHYSICAL THERAPISTS	SECTION 40-45-110. Refusal to grant licenses; suspensions, revocations, or other restrictions; grounds; mental and physical exams allowed; evidentiary use of records; opportunity to demonstrate ability to practice. 2) has treated or undertaken to treat human ailments otherwise than by physical therapy or has practiced physical therapy and failed to refer to a licensed medical doctor or dentist any patient whose medical condition should have been determined at the time of evaluation or treatment to be beyond the scope of practice of a physical therapist; (4) in the absence of a referral from a licensed medical doctor or dentist, provides physical therapy services beyond thirty days after the initial evaluation and/or treatment date without the referral of the patient to a licensed medical doctor or dentist;
South Dakota	Unlimited		No restriction to access; no language specifically requiring referral
Tennessee	Limited	CHAPTER 1150-1 GENERAL RULES GOVERNING THE PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY	1150-1-.02 SCOPE OF PRACTICE AND SUPERVISION. (1) Scope of Practice  <i>(a) The scope of practice of physical therapy shall be under the written or oral referral of a licensed doctor of medicine, chiropractic, dentistry, podiatry or osteopathy, with the following exceptions, as provided in T.C.A. § 63-13-303.</i> GENERAL RULES GOVERNING THE PRACTICE OF

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			<p>PHYSICAL THERAPY CHAPTER 1150-1 (Rule 1150-1-.02, continued)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The initial evaluation which may be conducted without such referral;</li> <li>2. A licensed physical therapist may treat a patient for an injury or condition that was the subject of a prior referral if all of the following conditions are met:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The physical therapist, within four (4) business days of the commencement of therapy, consults with the referring licensed physician, osteopathic physician, dentist, chiropractor, podiatrist, or other referring practitioner;</li> <li>(ii) For all episodes of physical therapy subsequent to that which was initiated by the referral, the physical therapist treats the patient for not more than ten (10) treatment sessions or fifteen (15) consecutive calendar days, whichever occurs first, whereupon the physical therapist must confer with the referring practitioner in order to continue the current episode of treatment; and</li> <li>(iii) The physical therapist commences any episode of treatment provided pursuant to part (1) (a) 2. of this rule within one (1) year of the referral by the referring practitioner.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. No physical therapist may provide treatment pursuant to part two (2) of this subparagraph without having been licensed to practice physical therapy for at least one (1) year and without satisfying other requirements set by the Board.</li> <li>4. A licensed physical therapist may provide physical assessments or instructions including recommendation of exercise to an asymptomatic person without the referral of a referring practitioner.</li> <li>5. In emergency circumstances, including minor emergencies, a licensed physical therapist may provide assistance to a person to the best of a therapist's ability without the referral of a referring practitioner, provided the physical therapist shall refer to the appropriate health care practitioner, as indicated, immediately thereafter. For the purposes of this part of this subparagraph, emergency circumstances means instances where emergency medical care is called for. Emergency medical care means bona fide emergency services provided after the sudden onset of a medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, such that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Placing the patient's health in serious jeopardy;</li> <li>(ii) Serious impairment to bodily functions; or</li> <li>(iii) Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
Texas	Limited	Title 3, Subtitle H, Chapter 453, Occupations Code	<i>(2) Exceptions to referral requirement.</i>

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		<p>Sec. 453.302. TREATING PATIENT WITHOUT REFERRAL.</p> <p>TX Rules: CHAPTER 322. PRACTICE</p> <p>§322.1. Provision of Services.</p>	<p>(A) A PT may evaluate without referral.</p> <p>(B) A PT may provide instructions to any person who is asymptomatic relating to the instructions being given without a referral, including instruction to promote health, wellness, and fitness.</p> <p>(C) Emergency Circumstances. A PT may provide emergency medical care to a person after the sudden onset of a medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity without referral if the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in a serious threat to the patient's health, serious impairment to bodily functions, or serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.</p> <p>(D) Prior referrals. A physical therapist may treat a patient for an injury or condition that is the subject of a prior referral if all of the following conditions are met.</p> <p>(i) The physical therapist must notify the original referring healthcare personnel of the commencement of therapy by telephone within five days, or by letter postmarked within five business days;</p> <p><i>(ii) The physical therapy provided must not be for more than 20 treatment sessions or 30 consecutive calendar days, whichever occurs first. At the conclusion of this time or treatment, the physical therapist must confer with the referring healthcare personnel before continuing treatment.</i></p> <p><i>(iii) The treatment can only be provided to a client/patient who received the referral not more than one year previously.</i></p> <p><i>(iv) The physical therapist providing treatment must have been licensed for one year. The physical therapist responsible for the treatment of the patient may delegate appropriate duties to another physical therapist having less than one year of experience or to a physical therapist assistant. A physical therapist licensed for more than one year must retain responsibility for and supervision of the treatment.</i></p>
Utah	Unlimited		No restriction to access; no language specifically requiring referral
Vermont	Unlimited		No restriction to access; no language specifically requiring referral
Virgin Islands- no information available			
Virginia	Limited	Code of Virginia	B. After completing a three-year period of active practice upon the referral and direction of a licensed doctor of medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic, podiatry,

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		<p>Chapter 34.1 of Title 54.1 – Physical Therapy</p> <p>§ 54.1-3482. Certain experience and referrals required; unlawful to practice physical therapist assistance except under the direction and control of a licensed physical therapist.</p>	<p>dental surgery, licensed nurse practitioner as authorized in his practice protocol, or a licensed physician assistant acting under the supervision of a licensed physician, a physical therapist may treat a patient for no more than 14 consecutive calendar days without a referral under the following conditions: (i) the patient has previously been referred to a physical therapist for physical therapy services by a licensed doctor of medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic, podiatry, dental surgery, licensed nurse practitioner as authorized in his practice protocol, or a licensed physician assistant acting under the supervision of a licensed physician; (ii) the patient's referral for physical therapy was made within two years from the date the physical therapist implements a program of physical therapy treatment without referral and direction; (iii) the physical therapy being provided to the patient without referral and direction is for the same injury, disease or condition as indicated in the referral of the licensed doctor of medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic, podiatry, dental surgery, or licensed physician assistant acting under the supervision of a licensed physician; and (iv) the physical therapist notifies the practitioner identified by the patient no later than three days after treatment commences. Treatment for more than 14 consecutive calendar days of such patient shall only be upon the referral and direction of a licensed doctor of medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic, podiatry, dental surgery, licensed nurse practitioner as authorized in his practice protocol, or a licensed physician assistant acting under the supervision of a licensed physician.</p> <p>In addition, after completing a three-year period of active practice upon the referral and direction of a licensed doctor of medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic, podiatry, dental surgery, licensed nurse practitioner as authorized in his practice protocol, or a licensed physician assistant acting under the supervision of a licensed physician, a physical therapist may conduct a one-time evaluation, that does not include treatment, of a patient who does not meet the conditions established in (i) through (iv) without the referral and direction of a licensed doctor of medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic, podiatry, dental surgery, licensed nurse practitioner as authorized in his practice protocol, or a licensed physician assistant acting under the supervision of a licensed physician; if appropriate, the physical therapist shall immediately refer such patient to the appropriate practitioner.</p> <p>C. Invasive procedures within the scope of practice of physical therapy shall at all times be performed only under the referral and direction of a licensed doctor of medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic, podiatry, dental surgery, licensed nurse practitioner as authorized in his practice protocol, or a licensed physician assistant acting under the supervision of a licensed physician.</p>
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			<p>D. It shall be unlawful for any licensed physical therapist to fail to immediately refer any patient to a licensed doctor of medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic, podiatry, or dental surgery, or a licensed nurse practitioner as authorized in his practice protocol, whose medical condition is determined, at the time of evaluation or treatment, to be beyond the physical therapist's scope of practice. Upon determining that the patient's medical condition is beyond the scope of practice of a physical therapist, a physical therapist shall immediately refer such patient to an appropriate practitioner.</p> <p>E. Any person licensed as a physical therapist assistant shall perform his duties only under the direction and control of a licensed physical therapist.</p> <p>F. However, a licensed physical therapist may provide, without referral or supervision, physical therapy services to (i) a student athlete participating in a school-sponsored athletic activity while such student is at such activity in a public, private, or religious elementary, middle or high school, or public or private institution of higher education when such services are rendered by a licensed physical therapist who is certified as an athletic trainer by the National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification or as a sports certified specialist by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties; (ii) employees solely for the purpose of evaluation and consultation related to workplace ergonomics; (iii) special education students who, by virtue of their individualized education plans (IEPs), need physical therapy services to fulfill the provisions of their IEPs; (iv) the public for the purpose of wellness, fitness, and health screenings; (v) the public for the purpose of health promotion and education; and (vi) the public for the purpose of prevention of impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities.</p>
Washington	Limited	<p>Chapter 18.74 RCW Physical therapy</p> <p>RCW 18.74.012 Consultation with health care practitioner not required for certain treatments.</p> <p>RCW 18.74.015 Referral to health care practitioners — When required.</p>	<p>A consultation and periodic review by an authorized health care practitioner is not required for treatment of neuromuscular or musculoskeletal conditions.</p> <p>(1) Physical therapists shall refer persons under their care to authorized health care practitioners if they have reasonable cause to believe symptoms or conditions are present which require services beyond the scope of their practice or for which physical therapy is contraindicated.</p> <p>(d) Performing wound care services that are limited to sharp debridement, debridement with other agents, dry dressings, wet dressings, topical agents including enzymes, hydrotherapy, electrical stimulation,</p>

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		<p>18.74.010 Definitions.</p> <p>18.74.160 Authorization to practice — Referral to appropriate practitioner — Standards of ethics — Electroneuromyographic examinations — Authorization to purchase, store, and administer certain drugs or medication.</p>	<p>ultrasound, and other similar treatments. Physical therapists may not delegate sharp debridement. A physical therapist may perform wound care services only by referral from or after consultation with an authorized health care practitioner;</p> <p>(4) A physical therapist may perform electroneuromyographic examinations for the purpose of testing neuromuscular function only by referral from an authorized health care practitioner identified in RCW</p>
West Virginia	Unlimited	West Virginia Physical Therapy Practice Act	<p>§30-20-9. Scope of practice of a physical therapist. A physical therapist may:</p> <p>(1) Examine, evaluate and test patients or clients with mechanical, physiological and developmental impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities or other health and movement related conditions in order to determine a diagnosis, prognosis and plan of treatment intervention, and to assess the ongoing effects of intervention: <i>Provided</i>, That electromyography examination and electrodiagnostic studies other than the determination of chronaxia and strength duration curves shall not be performed except under the supervision of a physician electromyographer and electrodiagnostician;</p>
Wisconsin	Limited	<p>CHAPTER 448 MEDICAL PRACTICES</p> <p>SUBCHAPTER III</p> <p>PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINING BOARD</p>	<p>448.56 Practice requirements.</p> <p>448.56(1)</p> <p>(1) Written referral. Except as provided in this subsection and <u>s. 448.52</u>, a person may practice physical therapy only upon the written referral of a physician, chiropractor, dentist, podiatrist, or advanced practice nurse prescriber certified under <u>s. 441.16 (2)</u>. Written referral is not required if a physical therapist provides services in schools to children with disabilities, as defined in <u>s. 115.76 (5)</u>, pursuant to rules promulgated by the department of public instruction; provides services as part of a home health care agency; provides services to a patient in a nursing home pursuant to the patient's plan of care; provides services related to athletic activities, conditioning, or injury prevention; or provides services to an individual for a previously diagnosed medical condition after informing the individual's physician, chiropractor, dentist, podiatrist, or advanced practice nurse prescriber certified under <u>s. 441.16 (2)</u> who made the diagnosis. The examining board may promulgate rules establishing additional services that are excepted from the written referral requirements of this subsection.</p> <p>448.56(1m)</p>



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			<p>(1m) Duty to refer.</p> <p>448.56(1m)(a) (a) A physical therapist shall refer a patient to an appropriate health care practitioner if the physical therapist has reasonable cause to believe that symptoms or conditions are present that require services beyond the scope of the practice of physical therapy.</p>
Wyoming	Limited	<p>TITLE 33 - PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS CHAPTER 25 - PHYSICAL THERAPISTS</p> <p>33-25-102. Practice of physical therapy; license or certificate required; exceptions; false representations.</p>	<p>(c) Except as provided in this subsection, a physical therapist with a master's degree, or a bachelor's degree with five (5) years of clinical experience may initiate physical therapy treatment for a new or recurring injury with or without a prescription from a licensed physician including doctor of osteopathy, podiatrist, advanced practitioner of nursing, dentist, chiropractor or physician assistant. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to preclude a physical therapist from treating a chronic or recurring injury or condition without a prescription, provided that the patient or client was previously diagnosed and prescribed physical therapy treatment within the previous year by a health care provider identified in this subsection and the treatment is directly related to the original prescribed care. Except in an emergency, a physical therapist, without a prescription, is prohibited from initiating physical therapy treatment for children under the age of twelve (12) years, unless the child is to receive physical therapy treatment under an individualized education program or an individualized family services plan. A physical therapist shall refer the patient or client to a licensed physician including doctor of osteopathy, podiatrist, advanced practitioner of nursing, dentist, chiropractor or physician assistant, as appropriate, when:</p> <p>(i) The physical therapist has reasonable cause to believe symptoms or conditions are present that require services beyond the scope of physical therapy practice;</p> <p>(ii) Physical therapy is contraindicated; or</p> <p>(iii) Except for patients or clients participating in general exercise or fitness programs or receiving physical therapy services under an individualized education program or an individualized family services plan, the patient or client has received physical therapy services without a prescription for twelve (12) visits or for a thirty (30) day period, whichever occurs earlier, and further services may be necessary</p>