

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

Each licensing authority indicates the level of direct access allowed in the jurisdiction and the type of limitations that apply to this access. There are two tables:

- Types and Limits
- Referrals

**TYPES AND LIMITS**

This table reports the kinds of direct access PTs are allowed. If there is limited direct access, it reports the type of limitations.

<b>Summary of Access</b>	
No. of jurisdictions that have unlimited direct access	17
No. of jurisdictions that have limited direct access	32
No. of jurisdictions that have no direct access	5

<b>Summary of Limitations</b>	
No. of jurisdictions that allow an evaluation without referral	9
No. of jurisdictions that allow for fitness and wellness	10
No. of jurisdictions that have visit or time restrictions	20
No. of jurisdictions that have setting restrictions	7
No. of jurisdictions that require a specific degree or years of clinical experience	10
No. of jurisdictions that allow for pediatrics	7
No. of jurisdictions that require a diagnosis or referral	3
No. of jurisdictions that require a prior referral to physical therapy for same issue	4
No. of jurisdictions that require notification of the MD	12

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State	Type	Eval without Referral	Fitness & Wellness	Visit or time restriction prior to needing a referral	Restricted settings	Specific Degree/Years of clinical experience required	Pediatrics	Diagnosis OR referral needed	Prior referral to physical therapy for same issue	Notification of MD	Other
AK	Unlimited										
AL	Limited	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	Previously diagnosed condition within the last 90 days.
AR	Limited										Must have referral for bronchopulmonary hygiene, debridement and wound care.
AZ	Unlimited										
CA	Limited	✓						✓			A PT may evaluate without a referral or a diagnosis, but may not initiate treatment without a diagnosis. A referral is not required.
CO	Unlimited										
CT	Limited			✓ if no improvement		✓					Must have referral for manipulation.
DC	Limited			✓ if no improvement							
DE	Limited			✓							
FL	Limited			✓	✓						
GA	Limited		✓	✓		✓			✓		
HI	None	✓									

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IA	Unlimited										
ID	Unlimited										
IL	Limited							✓		✓	Must have documented referral or documented current and relevant diagnosis from a physician, dentist, or podiatrist to treat.
IN	Limited			✓							May evaluate and treat for 24 days without a referral from a provider EXCEPT: Must have been examined by MD/DO/Chiro or have referral from same for spinal manipulation. Referral needed for wound debridement.
KS	Limited	✓	✓	✓*			✓				*No referral needed to be treated. Must refer to an appropriate licensed health care provider If patient not progressing 10 visits or 15 days after initial visit.
KY	Unlimited										
LA	Limited	✓	✓		✓		✓			✓	Prior diagnosis required within 90 days.
MA	Unlimited										
MD	Unlimited										
ME	Limited			✓							Must have referral for manipulation.

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MI	None	✓									
MN	Limited		✓	✓		✓					
MO	Limited		✓							✓	Prior diagnosis required within one year.
MS	Limited		✓		✓		✓			✓	Prior diagnosis required within 180 days.
MT	Unlimited										
NC	Limited										Must have referral for manipulation.
ND	Unlimited										
NE	Unlimited										
NH	Limited			✓							
NJ	Limited			✓						✓	
NM	Limited				✓		✓			✓	Prior diagnosis required within 12 months.
NV	Unlimited										
NY	Limited			✓		✓					
OH	Limited		✓ *	✓		✓				✓	PTs with masters/ doctorates or 2 years' practice on or before 12/31/2004 are eligible to practice without a referral. *Rule 4655-29-01 Paragraph E applies.
OK	None	✓							✓		Only children receiving PT through IDEA.
OR	Unlimited										

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PA	Limited			✓		✓					Must apply to board for special certificate.
PR											
RI	Limited			✓		✓					
SC	Limited			✓							
SD	Unlimited										
TN	Limited			✓						✓	
TX	Limited	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓	Prior referral required within 12 months.
UT	Unlimited										
VA	Limited	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	Must have referral for orthotics. Referral must have been made within two years. Cannot perform more than one initial eval per patient within three months.
VI	None										
VT	Unlimited										
WA	Limited										Referral for wound care, EMG.
WI	Limited		✓		✓					✓	Prior diagnosis required.
WV	Unlimited										
WY	Limited			✓		✓	✓				If chronic problem, must have been diagnosed and treated within the past year.

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**REFERRALS**

This table reports which healthcare providers PTs can accept referrals from.

<b>Summary</b>	
Medical Doctor	39
Dentists	38
Podiatrists	37
Chiropractors	35
Osteopaths	31
Naturopaths	13
Physicians' assistants	26
Nurse practitioners	26
Veterinarians	1

STATE	Who can PTs accept referrals from?									
	Medical Doctor	Dentists	Podiatrists	Chiropractors	Osteopaths	Naturopaths	Physicians' assistants	Nurse practitioners	Vets	Other
AL	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		
AK										
AZ	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
AR										
CA										PT isn't required to have a referral but must have a diagnosis from any diagnostician.
CO										
CT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
DE	✓	✓	✓					✓		Any licensed health practitioner, who

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STATE	Who can PTs accept referrals from?									
	Medical Doctor	Dentists	Podiatrists	Chiropractors	Osteopaths	Naturopaths	Physicians' assistants	Nurse practitioners	Vets	Other
										has been granted prescriptive authority for a condition within the scope of their respective practices.
DC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
FL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
GA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
HI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				Optometrists
ID	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
IL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
IN	✓	✓	✓	✓						
IA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
KS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
KY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
LA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
ME	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
MD										
MA										
MI	✓		✓		✓		✓			
MN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
MS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
MO	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
MT	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				
NE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
NV										
NH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			



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STATE	Who can PTs accept referrals from?									
	Medical Doctor	Dentists	Podiatrists	Chiropractors	Osteopaths	Naturopaths	Physicians' assistants	Nurse practitioners	Vets	Other
NJ	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
NM	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	Doctor of Oriental Medicine (DOM.)
NY	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
NC										
ND										
OH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		PTs with masters/ doctorates or 2 years' practice on or before 12/31/2004 are eligible to practice without a referral.
OK	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
OR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
PA	✓	✓	✓							
PR										
RI		✓	✓	✓	✓					
SC	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
SD										
TN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
TX	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		Any licensed professional whose practice act gives them the authority to refer
UT										Referrals are not outlined in Utah Statute or Rule
VT										
VI	✓			✓						
VA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
WA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
WV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

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	Medical Doctor	Dentists	Podiatrists	Chiropractors	Osteopaths	Naturopaths	Physicians' assistants	Nurse practitioners	Vets	Other
WI	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		
WY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		