

Chapter PT 5

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS AND PHYSICAL THERAPY AIDES

PT 5.01 General supervision of physical therapist assistants.
 PT 5.02 Direct supervision of physical therapist assistants and physical ther-

apy aides.

PT 5.01 General supervision of physical therapist assistants. A physical therapist assistant, as defined in s. 448.52 (3), Stats., may practice physical therapy under the general supervision of a physical therapist. In providing general supervision, the physical therapist shall do all of the following:

- (1) Have primary responsibility for physical therapy care rendered by the physical therapist assistant.
- (2) Have direct face-to-face contact with the physical therapist assistant at least every 14 calendar days.
- (3) Remain accessible to telecommunications in the interim between direct contacts while the physical therapist assistant is providing patient care.
- (4) Limit the number of physical therapist assistants practicing under general supervision to a number appropriate to the setting in which physical therapy is administered, to ensure that all patients under the care of the physical therapist receive services that are consistent with accepted standards of care and consistent with all other requirements under this chapter. No physical therapist may at any time supervise more than 2 physical therapist assistants full-time equivalents practicing under general supervision.
- (5) Establish a written policy and procedure for written and oral communication. This policy and procedure shall include a specific description of the supervisory activities undertaken for the physical therapist assistant, appropriate to the setting and the services provided.
- (6) Provide initial patient evaluation and interpretation of referrals.
- (7) Develop and revise as appropriate the patient treatment plan and program.
- (8) Delegate appropriate portions of the treatment plan and program to the physical therapist assistant consistent with the physical therapist assistant's education, training and experience.
- (9) Provide on-site assessment and reevaluation of each patient's treatment a minimum of one time per calendar month or every tenth treatment day, whichever is sooner, and adjust the treatment plan as appropriate.
- (10) Coordinate discharge plan decisions and the final assessment with the physical therapist assistant.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1995, No. 477, eff. 10-1-95.

PT 5.02 Direct supervision of physical therapist assistants and physical therapy aides. Physical therapist assistants may provide physical therapy services, and physical therapy aides may provide patient care activities under the direct on-premises supervision of a physical therapist. In providing direct supervision, the physical therapist shall do all of the following:

- (1) Have primary responsibility for patient care rendered by the physical therapist assistant or physical therapy aide.
- (2) Be available at all times for consultation with the physical therapist assistant or physical therapy aide.
- (3) Observe and monitor those under direct supervision on a daily basis.
- (4) Evaluate the effectiveness of services provided by those under direct supervision on a daily basis by observing and monitoring persons receiving such services.
- (5) Determine the competence of each physical therapist assistant and physical therapy aide based upon his or her education, training and experience.
- (6) Interpret referrals and perform initial patient evaluation and examination.
- (7) Provide interpretation of objective tests, measurements and other data in developing and revising a physical therapy diagnosis, assessment, and treatment plan.
- (8) Delegate appropriate portions of the treatment plan and program to the physical therapist assistant or physical therapy aide consistent with the education, training, and experience of the person supervised.
- (9) Limit the number of physical therapist assistants and physical therapy aides providing patient care under direct supervision to a number appropriate to the setting in which physical therapy is administered, to ensure that all patients under the care of the physical therapist receive services that are consistent with accepted standards of care and consistent with all other requirements under this chapter. The total number of physical therapist assistants and physical therapy aides providing patient care under direct and general supervision may not exceed a total of 4.

History: Cr. Register, April, 2000, No. 532, eff. 5-1-00.