

Missouri Revised Statutes

Chapter 334

Physicians and Surgeons--Therapists--Athletic Trainers--Health Care

Section 334.506

August 28, 2008

Physical therapists may provide certain services without prescription or direction of an approved health care provider, when--limitations.

334.506. 1. As used in this section, "approved health care provider" means a person holding a current and 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.

2. A physical therapist shall not initiate treatment for a new injury or illness without a prescription from an approved health care provider.

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.

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:

(1) Contact the patient's current approved health care provider within seven days of initiating physical therapy services under this subsection;

(2) Not change an existing physical therapy referral available to the physical therapist without approval of the patient's current approved health care provider;

(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;

(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;

(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.

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.

6. No person licensed to practice, or applicant for licensure, as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant shall make a medical diagnosis.

7. A physical therapist shall only delegate physical therapy treatment to a physical therapist assistant or to a person in an entry level of a professional education program approved by the Commission for Accreditation of Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistant Education (CAPTE) who satisfies* supervised clinical education requirements related to the person's physical therapist or physical therapist assistant education. The entry-level person shall be under on-site supervision of a physical therapist.

(L. 1999 H.B. 343 merged with S.B. 8 & 173, A.L. 2004 S.B. 1122 merged with S.B. 1181, A.L. 2008 S.B. 788)

*Word "satisfy" appears in original rolls.

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