

State of Arkansas
86th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2007

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1218

By: Representative S. Prater

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF
PHYSICAL THERAPISTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE
OF PHYSICAL THERAPISTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-93-102 is amended to read as follows:
17-93-102. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, ~~unless the context otherwise requires:~~

(1) "Board" means the Arkansas State Board of Physical Therapy;

(2) "Direct supervision" means that the supervising therapist is
on-site and available for consultation;

(3) "Mobilization/manipulation" means a manual therapy technique
composed of a continuum of skilled passive movement to the joints or to soft
tissue related to joints, or both that are applied at varying speeds and
amplitudes, including without limitation, a small-amplitude/high-velocity
therapeutic movement;

~~(3)~~(4) "Physical therapist" means a person who practices
physical therapy as defined in this chapter having successfully completed a
curriculum of physical therapy as accredited by a national accreditation
agency approved by the board and having passed a nationally recognized
licensing examination;

~~(4)~~(A)(5)(A) "Physical therapist assistant" means a person who:

(i) Assists in the practice of physical therapy



1 under the supervision of a physical therapist;

2 (ii) Has successfully completed a physical therapist
3 assistant curriculum accredited by a national accreditation agency approved
4 by the board; and

5 (iii) Has passed a nationally recognized licensing
6 examination.

7 (B) The physical therapist assistant's function is to:

8 (i) Assist the physical therapist in the patient-
9 related activities;

10 (ii) Perform procedures delegated to him or her by
11 the licensed physical therapists that are commensurate with his or her
12 education and training;

13 (iii) Function as a participating team member who
14 contributes to total patient care and assists the physical therapist in
15 carrying out complete procedures and programs; and

16 (iv) Observe and report to his or her supervisor
17 conditions, reactions, and responses related to his or her assigned duties.

18 (C) The physical therapist assistant shall not interpret
19 the orders, perform evaluation procedures, or assume responsibility for
20 planning patient care;

21 ~~(5)~~(6) "Physical therapy aide" means an unlicensed member of the
22 physical therapy team who may perform treatments under the direct supervision
23 of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant;

24 ~~(6)~~(7) "Practice of physical therapy" means:

25 (A) Examining and evaluating patients with mechanical,
26 physiological and developmental impairments, functional limitations, and
27 disability or other health-related conditions in order to determine a
28 physical therapy diagnosis, prognosis, and planned therapeutic intervention;

29 (B)(i) Alleviating impairments and functional limitations
30 by designing, implementing, and modifying therapeutic interventions that
31 include:

32 (a) Therapeutic exercise;

33 (b) Functional training in self-care as it
34 relates to patient mobility and community access;

35 (c) Manual therapy techniques, including soft
36 tissue massage, manual traction, connective tissue massage, therapeutic

1 massage, and mobilization/manipulation, i.e., passive movement accomplished
2 within normal range of motion of the joint, ~~but excluding spinal manipulation~~
3 ~~and adjustment~~;

4 (d) Assistive and adaptive devices and
5 equipment as they relate to patient mobility and community access;

6 (e) Physical agents;

7 (f) Mechanical and electrotherapeutic
8 modalities; and

9 (g) Patient-related instruction.

10 (ii) The therapeutic intervention of
11 bronchopulmonary hygiene, and debridement and wound care requires a physician
12 referral prior to initiation of treatment.

13 (iii) Physical therapy shall not include radiology
14 or electrosurgery;

15 (C) Preventing injury, impairments, functional
16 limitations, and disability, including the promotion and maintenance of
17 fitness, health, and quality of life in all age populations; and

18 (D) Engaging in consultation, testing, education, and
19 research; and

20 ~~(7)-(A)~~(8)(A) "Supervision" means that the supervising therapist
21 retains moral, ethical, and legal responsibility for patient care and is
22 readily available for consultation.

23 (B) The supervising therapist is not required to be on-
24 site but must be at least available by telecommunication.