

REFERENCE TITLE: physical therapists; imaging; laboratory tests

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2024

SB 1266

Introduced by
Senator Shope

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 32-2001, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO THE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 32-2001, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 32-2001. Definitions

5 In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

6 1. "Assistive personnel":

7 (a) Includes:

8 (i) Physical therapist assistants.

9 (ii) Physical therapy aides.

10 (iii) Other assistive personnel who are trained or educated health
11 care providers and who are not physical therapist assistants or physical
12 therapy aides but who perform specific designated tasks related to
13 physical therapy under the supervision of a physical therapist. At the
14 discretion of the supervising physical therapist, and if properly
15 credentialed and not prohibited by any other law, other assistive
16 personnel may be identified by the title specific to their training or
17 education.

18 (b) Does not include personnel assisting other health care
19 professionals licensed pursuant to this title in performing delegable
20 treatment responsibilities within their scope of practice.

21 2. "Board" means the board of physical therapy.

22 3. "Business entity" means a business organization that has an
23 ownership that includes any persons who are not licensed or certified to
24 provide physical therapy services in this state, that offers to the public
25 professional services regulated by the board and that is established
26 pursuant to the laws of any state or foreign country.

27 4. "Dry needling" means a skilled intervention performed by a
28 physical therapist that uses a thin filiform needle to penetrate the skin
29 and stimulate underlying neural, muscular and connective tissues to
30 evaluate and manage neuromusculoskeletal conditions, pain and movement
31 impairments.

32 5. "General supervision" means that the supervising physical
33 therapist is on call and is readily available via telecommunications when
34 the physical therapist assistant is providing treatment interventions.

35 6. "Interim permit" means a permit issued by the board that allows
36 a person to practice as a physical therapist in this state or to work as a
37 physical therapist assistant for a specific period of time and under
38 conditions prescribed by the board before that person is issued a license
39 or certificate.

40 7. "Manual therapy techniques" means a broad group of passive
41 interventions in which physical therapists use their hands to administer
42 skilled movements designed to modulate pain, increase joint range of
43 motion, reduce or eliminate soft tissue swelling, inflammation or
44 restriction, induce relaxation, improve contractile and noncontractile

1 tissue extensibility, and improve pulmonary function. These interventions
2 involve a variety of techniques, such as the application of graded forces.

3 8. "On-site supervision" means that the supervising physical
4 therapist is on site and is present in the facility or on the campus where
5 assistive personnel or a holder of an interim permit is performing
6 services, is immediately available to assist the person being supervised
7 in the services being performed and maintains continued involvement in
8 appropriate aspects of each treatment session in which a component of
9 treatment is delegated.

10 9. "Physical therapist" means a person who is licensed pursuant to
11 this chapter.

12 10. "Physical therapist assistant" means a person who meets the
13 requirements of this chapter for certification and who performs physical
14 therapy procedures and related tasks that have been selected and delegated
15 by the supervising physical therapist.

16 11. "Physical therapy" means the care and services provided by or
17 under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist who is
18 licensed pursuant to this chapter.

19 12. "Physical therapy aide" means a person who is trained under the
20 direction of a physical therapist and who performs designated and
21 supervised routine physical therapy tasks.

22 13. "Practice of physical therapy" means:

23 (a) Examining, evaluating and testing persons who have mechanical,
24 physiological and developmental impairments, functional limitations and
25 disabilities or other health and movement related conditions in order to
26 determine a diagnosis, a prognosis and a plan of therapeutic intervention
27 and to assess the ongoing effects of intervention, including ordering
28 ~~musculoskeletal imaging consisting of plain film radiographs~~ IMAGING AND
29 LABORATORY TESTS.

30 (b) Alleviating impairments and functional limitations by managing,
31 designing, implementing and modifying therapeutic interventions including:

32 (i) Therapeutic exercise.

33 (ii) Functional training in self-care and in home, community or
34 work reintegration.

35 (iii) Manual therapy techniques.

36 (iv) Therapeutic massage.

37 (v) Assistive and adaptive orthotic, prosthetic, protective and
38 supportive devices and equipment.

39 (vi) Pulmonary hygiene.

40 (vii) Debridement and wound care.

41 (viii) Physical agents or modalities.

42 (ix) Mechanical and electrotherapeutic modalities.

43 (x) Patient related instruction.

1 (c) Reducing the risk of injury, impairments, functional
2 limitations and disability by means that include promoting and maintaining
3 a person's fitness, health and quality of life.

4 (d) Engaging in administration, consultation, education and
5 research.

6 14. "Restricted certificate" means a certificate on which the board
7 places any restrictions as the result of a disciplinary action.

8 15. "Restricted license" means a license on which the board places
9 restrictions or conditions, or both, as to the scope of practice, place of
10 practice, supervision of practice, duration of licensed status or type or
11 condition of a patient to whom the licensee may provide services.

12 16. "Restricted registration" means a registration on which the
13 board places any restrictions as the result of disciplinary action.