CHAPTER 289
SENATE BILL 1312
AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 32-2001, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 32, CHAPTER 19, ARTICLE 3, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 32-2041.01; RELATING TO PHYSICAL THERAPY.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)
Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

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

32-2001. Definitions
In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:
1. "Assistive personnel":
   (a) Includes:
   (i) Physical therapist assistants.
   (ii) Physical therapy aides.
   (iii) Other assistive personnel who are trained or educated health care providers and who are not physical therapist assistants or physical therapy aides but who perform specific designated tasks related to physical therapy under the supervision of a physical therapist. At the discretion of the supervising physical therapist, and if properly credentialed and not prohibited by any other law, other assistive personnel may be identified by the title specific to their training or education. This paragraph
   (b) Does not apply to personnel assisting other health care professionals licensed pursuant to this title in the performance of delegable treatment responsibilities within their scope of practice.
2. "Board" means the board of physical therapy.
3. "Business entity" means a business organization that has an ownership that includes any persons who are not licensed or certified to provide physical therapy services in this state, that offers to the public professional services regulated by the board and that is established pursuant to the laws of any state or foreign country.
4. "Dry needling" means a skilled intervention performed by a physical therapist that uses a thin filiform needle to penetrate the skin and stimulate underlying neural, muscular and connective tissues for the evaluation and management of neuromusculoskeletal conditions, pain and movement impairments.
5. "General supervision" means that the supervising physical therapist is on call and is readily available via telecommunications when the physical therapist assistant is providing treatment interventions.
6. "Interim permit" means a permit issued by the board that allows a person to practice as a physical therapist in this state or to work as a physical therapist assistant for a specific period of time and under conditions prescribed by the board before that person is issued a license or certificate.
7. "Manual therapy techniques" means a broad group of passive interventions in which physical therapists use their hands to administer skilled movements designed to modulate pain, increase joint range of motion, reduce or eliminate soft tissue swelling, inflammation, or restriction, induce relaxation, improve contractile and noncontractile
tissue extensibility, and improve pulmonary function. These interventions involve a variety of techniques, such as the application of graded forces.

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

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

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

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

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

13. "Practice of physical therapy" means:

   (a) Examining, evaluating and testing persons who have mechanical, physiological and developmental impairments, functional limitations and disabilities or other health and movement related conditions in order to determine a diagnosis, a prognosis and a plan of therapeutic intervention and to assess the ongoing effects of intervention, INCLUDING ORDERING MUSCULOSKELETAL IMAGING CONSISTING OF PLAIN FILM RADIOGRAPHS.

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

      (i) Therapeutic exercise.

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

      (iii) Manual therapy techniques.

      (iv) Therapeutic massage.

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

      (vi) Pulmonary hygiene.

      (vii) Debridement and wound care.

      (viii) Physical agents or modalities.

      (ix) Mechanical and electrotherapeutic modalities.

      (x) Patient related instruction.

   (c) Reducing the risk of injury, impairments, functional limitations and disability by means that include promoting and maintaining a person's fitness, health and quality of life.
(d) Engaging in administration, consultation, education and research.

14. "Restricted certificate" means a certificate on which the board has placed any restrictions as the result of a disciplinary action.

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

16. "Restricted registration" means a registration on which the board has placed any restrictions as the result of disciplinary action.

Sec. 2. Title 32, chapter 19, article 3, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended by adding section 32-2041.01, to read:

32-2041.01. Musculoskeletal imaging; ordering; requirements; reporting

A. A PHYSICAL THERAPIST MAY ORDER MUSCULOSKELETAL IMAGING CONSISTING OF PLAIN FILM RADIOGRAPHS. THE IMAGING SHALL BE PERFORMED BY A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER WHO IS AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO THIS TITLE TO PERFORM THE IMAGING AND SHALL BE INTERPRETED BY A PHYSICIAN WHO IS LICENSED PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 13, 14 OR 17 OF THIS TITLE AND TRAINED IN RADIOLOGY INTERPENETRATION.

B. A PHYSICAL THERAPIST SHALL REPORT RESULTS FOR ALL IMAGING TESTS THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ORDERS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION TO THE PATIENT'S HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER OF RECORD OR THE REFERRING HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER, IF DESIGNATED, WITHIN SEVEN DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THE RESULTS. IF THE PATIENT DOES NOT HAVE A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER OF RECORD, THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST SHALL REFER THE PATIENT TO AN APPROPRIATE HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER IF THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST HAS REASONABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT ANY SYMPTOMS OR CONDITIONS ARE PRESENT THAT MAY REQUIRE SERVICES BEYOND THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST'S SCOPE OF PRACTICE.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR JUNE 13, 2022.