

REFERENCE TITLE: physical therapy; durable medical equipment

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
First Regular Session
2025

HB 2181

Introduced by
Representative Bliss

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 either:

19 (i) Personnel assisting other health care professionals licensed
20 pursuant to this title in performing delegable treatment responsibilities
21 within their scope of practice.

22 (ii) Student physical therapists and student physical therapist
23 assistants.

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

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

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

35 5. "General supervision":

36 (a) Means that the supervising physical therapist is on call and is
37 readily available via telecommunications when the physical therapist
38 assistant is providing treatment interventions.

39 (b) Includes supervision provided through telehealth as defined in
40 section 36-3601.

41 6. "Interim permit" means a permit issued by the board that allows
42 a person to practice as a physical therapist in this state or to work as a
43 physical therapist assistant for a specific period of time and under
44 conditions prescribed by the board before that person is issued a license.

1 7. "Manual therapy techniques" means a broad group of passive
2 interventions in which physical therapists use their hands to administer
3 skilled movements designed to modulate pain, increase joint range of
4 motion, reduce or eliminate soft tissue swelling, inflammation or
5 restriction, induce relaxation, improve contractile and noncontractile
6 tissue extensibility, and improve pulmonary function. These interventions
7 involve a variety of techniques, such as the application of graded forces.

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

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

18 10. "Physical therapist assistant" means a person who meets the
19 requirements of this chapter for licensure and who performs physical
20 therapy procedures according to the physical therapy plan of care of the
21 supervising physical therapist.

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

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

28 13. "Practice of physical therapy" means:

29 (a) Examining, evaluating and testing persons who have mechanical,
30 physiological and developmental impairments, functional limitations and
31 disabilities or other health and movement related conditions in order to
32 determine a diagnosis, a prognosis and a plan of therapeutic intervention
33 and to assess the ongoing effects of intervention, including ordering
34 imaging.

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

37 (i) Therapeutic exercise.

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

40 (iii) Manual therapy techniques.

41 (iv) Therapeutic massage.

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

44 (vi) Pulmonary hygiene.

45 (vii) Debridement and wound care.

1 (viii) Physical agents or modalities.

2 (ix) Mechanical and electrotherapeutic modalities.

3 (x) Patient related instruction.

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

7 (d) Engaging in administration, consultation, education and
8 research.

9 (e) RECOMMENDING AND PRESCRIBING DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT WITHOUT
10 REQUESTING A PRESCRIPTION FROM A LICENSED PHYSICIAN.

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

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

17 16. "Student physical therapist" means a person who is enrolled in
18 a doctor of physical therapy program that is accredited by or has
19 candidate status by the commission on accreditation in physical therapy
20 education.

21 17. "Student physical therapist assistant" means a person who is
22 enrolled in an academic physical therapist assistant program that is
23 accredited by or has candidate status by the commission on accreditation
24 in physical therapy education.