

SB13 INTRODUCED



- 1 GY3P62-1
- 2 By Senator Melson
- 3 RFD: Healthcare
- 4 First Read: 07-Mar-23
- 5 PFD: 16-Feb-23



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, physical therapy may only be performed based on a referral from a licensed physician, dentist, chiropractor, physician assistant, or certified registered nurse practitioner, except in limited, enumerated circumstances that allow a licensed physical therapist to perform an initial evaluation or consultation of a screening nature without a referral.

This bill would further provide for the practice of physical therapy by a licensed physical therapist under certain conditions without a referral.

A BILL
TO BE ENACTED
AN ACT

Relating to physical therapy; to amend Section 34-24-210.1 of the Code of Alabama 1975; to further provide for the practice of physical therapy by a licensed physical therapist.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 34-24-210.1 of the Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§34-24-210.1

(a) Without prescription or referral, a licensed



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29 physical therapist may perform an initial evaluation or
30 consultation of a screening nature to determine the need for
31 physical therapy and may perform the physical therapy and
32 other services provided in subdivisions (1) to ~~(5)~~ (7),
33 inclusive, of subsection (b). Implementation of physical
34 therapy shall otherwise be based on the referral of a person
35 licensed to practice medicine, surgery, dentistry,
36 chiropractic, licensed assistant to a physician acting
37 pursuant to a valid supervising agreement, or a licensed
38 certified registered nurse practitioner in a valid
39 collaborative practice agreement with a licensed physician.

40 (b) The physical therapy and other services referred to
41 in subsection (a), which may be performed without prescription
42 or referral, include and are limited to the following:

43 (1) To a child with a diagnosed developmental
44 disability pursuant to the plan of care for the child.

45 (2) To a patient of a home health care agency pursuant
46 to the plan of care for the patient.

47 (3) To a patient in a nursing home pursuant to the plan
48 of care for the patient.

49 (4) Related to conditioning or to providing education
50 or activities in a wellness setting for the purpose of injury
51 prevention, reduction of stress, or promotion of fitness.

52 (5) To an individual for a previously diagnosed
53 condition or conditions for which physical therapy services
54 are appropriate after informing the health care provider
55 rendering the diagnosis. The diagnosis shall have been made
56 within the immediately preceding ~~90~~ 120 days. The physical



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57 therapist shall provide the health care provider who rendered
58 the diagnosis with a plan of care for physical therapy
59 services within the first 15 days of physical therapy
60 intervention.

61 (6) To an individual with a diagnosed chronic condition
62 for which intermittent physical therapy services are
63 appropriate. The individual must be under active management
64 for the chronic condition by a person licensed to practice
65 medicine, surgery, dentistry, chiropractic, licensed assistant
66 to a physician acting pursuant to a valid supervising
67 agreement, or a license-certified registered nurse
68 practitioner in a valid collaborative practice agreement with
69 a licensed physician.

70 (7) To an individual for restoring strength, endurance,
71 coordination, or range of motion, so long as the patient does
72 not initially present with new on-set pain, illness, or
73 injury."

74 Section 2. Nothing contained in this act shall be
75 construed to create a requirement that any health benefit
76 plan, group insurance plan, policy, or contract for health
77 care services that covers hospital, medical, or surgical
78 expenses, health maintenance organizations, preferred provider
79 organizations, medical service organizations,
80 physician-hospital organizations, or any other person, firm,
81 corporation, joint venture, or other similar business entity
82 that pays for, purchases, or furnishes group health care
83 services to patients, insureds, or beneficiaries in this
84 state, including entities created pursuant to Article 6,



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85 commencing with Section 10A-20-6.01, of Chapter 20, Title 10A,
86 Code of Alabama 1975, provide coverage or reimbursement for
87 the services described or authorized in this act.

88 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the first
89 day of the third month following its passage and approval by
90 the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.