

4755-27-04

**Delegation of tasks to unlicensed (supportive) physical therapy personnel and other assistive physical therapy personnel.**

- (A) For the purpose of this rule, unlicensed (supportive) physical therapy personnel and other assistive physical therapy personnel are defined as any person not holding a valid license under sections 4755.40 to 4755.56 of the Revised Code, who are working under the direction of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant performing tasks and duties related to the delivery of physical therapy.
- (B) The primary function of unlicensed (supportive) physical therapy personnel functioning under the supervision of physical therapists or physical therapist assistants is to perform designated routine tasks related to the operation and delivery of physical therapy. The function of other assistive physical therapy personnel is to utilize their specific and unique training under the supervision of physical therapists or physical therapist assistants to perform designated and delegated functions related to the operation and delivery of physical therapy.
- (C) A physical therapist or physical therapist assistant may only delegate within the scope of physical therapy practice. Physical therapists and physical therapists assistants shall only delegate tasks to unlicensed (supportive) physical therapy personnel when they are on-site for immediate availability and ongoing involvement in the direction and supervision of the delegated tasks. Supervision shall be based on the competency and experience of the unlicensed (supportive) physical therapy personnel. Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants shall only delegate tasks to other assistive physical therapy personnel when they are on-site to supervise the delegated tasks.

Physical therapists may choose to refer a patient to another discipline for services. This referral shall be documented by the physical therapist in the medical record to clearly demonstrate a referral to that service and therefore does not appear as a delegation of tasks or duties of physical therapy.

- (D) Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants shall not delegate to unlicensed (supportive) physical therapy personnel or other assistive physical therapy personnel tasks related to physical therapy which include:
- (1) Interpretation of physician referrals
  - (2) Performance of evaluative procedures
  - (3) Initiation or adjustment of treatment procedures or activities
  - (4) Responsibility for planning patient care

- (E) Physical therapists shall not consider unlicensed (supportive) physical therapy personnel or other assistive physical therapy personnel as being as skilled, competent, knowledgeable or qualified in the delivery of physical therapy as the licensed physical therapist assistant and therefore, shall not delegate the same type and level of duties as those delegated to the licensed physical therapist assistant. The physical therapist must recognize the difference in the education and training of physical therapy workers and assume responsibility for controlling the duties and activities delegated to unlicensed (supportive) physical therapy personnel and other assistive physical therapy personnel in physical therapy.
- (F) In physical therapy, unlicensed (supportive) physical therapy personnel are those individuals who are on the job trained by the physical therapist and who participate in physical therapy patient care delivery, and shall require the on-site immediate availability and ongoing involvement of the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant. In physical therapy, other assistive physical therapy personnel are those individuals who hold a license, certificate or evidence of other formal training in health care and who are within the supervision of physical therapy and participating in physical therapy patient care delivery, and shall require the on-site presence of the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant. Other assistive physical therapy personnel, who are working within the supervision of physical therapy, having involvement in physical therapy patient care activities should do so within the limits of their education and at the discretion of the physical therapist. Delegation of tasks or duties by the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant to unlicensed (supportive) physical therapy personnel or other assistive physical therapy personnel shall require such personnel being supervised, their titles and all provided services to be in accordance with the laws and rules of sections 4755.40 to 4755.56 of the Revised Code. The physical therapist or physical therapist assistant shall demonstrate involvement in each treatment session in which a component or components of a treatment session is performed by unlicensed supportive physical therapy personnel or other assistive physical therapy personnel.

The physical therapist or physical therapist assistant shall not delegate to a less qualified person any activity which requires the unique skills, knowledge and judgment of the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant. The responsibility for physical therapy care rendered by unlicensed (supportive) physical therapy personnel or other assistive physical therapy personnel, rests at all times with the physical therapist. Adequate supervision requires at a minimum:

- (1) Establishing channels of written and oral communication.
- (2) Interpreting available information concerning the individual requiring care.
- (3) Exercising professional judgment in selecting and delegating appropriate tasks

and activities, taking into consideration the training and competence of the unlicensed (supportive) physical therapy personnel and other assistive physical therapy personnel, the condition of the individual requiring the care, and any precautions, special problems or contraindications.

- (4) Assessing the competence of unlicensed (supportive) physical therapy personnel and other assistive physical therapy personnel to perform assigned tasks.
  - (5) Exercising professional judgment in determining the extent of supervision or involvement in the physical therapy activity that is required of the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant.
- (G) Duties or functions that physical therapists or physical therapist assistants under the supervision of a physical therapist may delegate to unlicensed (supportive) physical therapy personnel or other assistive physical therapy personnel in physical therapy includes but is not limited to:
- (1) Maintenance and care of equipment and supplies.
  - (2) Preparation, maintenance and clean up of treatment areas.
  - (3) Transportation of patient records, equipment and supplies.
  - (4) Performance of general office procedures (such as filing, attendance, reception, etc.)
  - (5) Assisting patients during preparation for, during, and at the conclusion of treatment (such as change clothing, position for treatment, assist to transfer, alter position during treatment, drape for warmth and modesty, redress, etc.)
  - (6) Assemble and disassemble equipment; prepare specific area for treatment; return equipment to storage, etc.
  - (7) Assist patients to safely perform activities related to the development of strength and endurance.
  - (8) Perform other patient related activities previously determined and assigned by the licensed physical therapist based upon a knowledge of the training and qualification of the unlicensed person.
- (H) Physical therapists shall assure quality and competent care when using unlicensed

(supportive) physical therapy personnel or other assistive physical therapy personnel in physical therapy through appropriate supervision and delegation of duties as outlined in the rule.

(I) The physical therapy student is an unlicensed person. Therefore, any person:

(1) Pursuing a course of study leading to an entry level degree, certificate, masters degree, or a doctorate degree in physical therapy in an accredited educational program; or

(2) The individual by reinstatement or endorsement as an effort to re-enter the profession is being guided by the physical therapy section to undertake a time of supervised clinical contact to enhance and improve clinical competency shall function in the likeness similar to student status of a licensure applicant and shall be designated as a re-entry applicant.~~As a part of a re-entry to the profession in a program as approved by the physical therapy section and if the activities and services constitute a part of a supervised course of study, and~~

As a part of a re-entry to the profession in a program as approved by the physical therapy section and if the activities and services constitute a part of a supervised course of study; and

(3) The person is designated by title which clearly indicates his/her status as a student or trainee, then the person shall abide by this rule. The physical therapy student shall at all times function under the on-site supervision of a licensed physical therapist. The physical therapist assistant student is also an unlicensed person who shall, at all times, function under the on-site supervision of a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant.

(J) An individual who has graduated from an academic program of physical therapy may retain his/her student status as a licensure applicant provided:

(1) He/she is a graduate of an accredited academic program in physical therapy as approved by the physical therapy section of the ohio occupational therapy, physical therapy and athletic trainers board.

(2) He/she has appropriately completed the exam application, and paid all necessary fees.

(3) Has been notified that he/she is approved to sit for the license examination; and

(4) The applicant schedules and sits for the license examination within sixty days

following this notification.

Licensure applicant status shall continue until the results of the above identified examination results have been reported and made public. Licensure applicant status automatically ceases when the results are publicly available, whether these results are passing or failing; and this status is not renewable. A licensure applicant for physical therapist requires on-site supervision by a physical therapist; a licensure applicant for physical therapist assistant requires on-site supervision by a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant. Documentation is signed with his/her name followed by the words "licensure applicant" and must have the appropriate countersignature.

Effective:

R.C. 119.032 review dates: 01/22/2004

---

Certification

---

Date

Promulgated Under: 119.03  
Statutory Authority: 4755.41  
Rule Amplifies: 4755.41  
Prior Effective Dates: 2/1/92, 7/8/96, 8/14/00