

WHAT IS DIRECT ACCESS FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY?

In 2013 the CA-1968 Revised Bill was passed that allows a person to go to a Physical Therapist directly, without an immediate physician referral. There are provisions that you will want to know.

They are:



FAQ

1. PT must refer the patient to their physician if, at any time, the patient has signs or symptoms of a condition that requires treatment beyond the scope of practice of a physical therapist or the patient is not progressing toward documented treatment goals as demonstrated by objective, measurable, or functional improvement.

2. With the patient's written authorization, the physical therapist shall notify the patient's physician and surgeon, if any, that the physical therapist is treating the patient.

3. The physical therapist shall not continue treating the patient beyond 45 calendar days or 12 visits, whichever occurs first, without receiving, a dated signature on the physical therapist's plan of care from the patient's physician, surgeon, or podiatrist indicating approval of the physical therapist's plan of care. Approval of the physical therapist's plan of care shall include an in-person patient examination and evaluation of the patient's condition and, if indicated, testing by the physician and surgeon or podiatrist.

4. PT shall disclose to the patient any financial interest he or she has in treating the patient and, if working in a physical therapy corporation, shall comply with Chapter 1, Article 6, commencing with Section 650.

5. PT must provide notice to the patient, orally and in writing, in at least 14-point type and signed by the patient indicating they are receiving direct physical therapy treatment services and may continue to receive direct physical therapy treatment services for a period of up to 45 calendar days or 12 visits, whichever occurs first, after which time a physical therapist may continue providing you with physical therapy treatment services only after receiving, a dated signature on the physical therapist's plan of care indicating approval of the physical therapist's plan of care and that an in-person patient examination and evaluation was conducted by the physician and surgeon or podiatrist.

6. Prohibits diagnosis of disease.