

Physical Therapy Practice Act Highlights

This document is a handy tool to use for quick reference and does not replace the licensee's/practitioner's responsibility to be familiar with the entire Ohio Physical Therapy Practice Act when practicing physical therapy in Ohio. It should not be considered a study guide for the Ohio LAW or Ohio JAM. Please reference the entire PT Practice Act at <https://otptat.ohio.gov/Practice-Acts>.

Topic Area	Brief Description	ORC/OAC section for full reference and other resources
1. Definition of "Physical Therapy"	<p>"Physical therapy" means the evaluation and treatment of a person by physical measures and the use of therapeutic exercises and rehabilitative procedures, with or without assistive devices, for the purpose of preventing, correcting, or alleviating physical impairments, functional limitations, and physical disabilities.</p> <p>If performed by a person who is adequately trained, "physical therapy" includes: the design, fabrication, and revision of various assistive devices, and the provision of education and instruction in the use of those devices, including braces, splints, ambulatory or locomotion devices, wheelchairs, prosthetics, and orthotics. "Physical therapy" includes the administration of topical drugs that have been prescribed by a licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs, as defined in section 4729.01 of the Revised Code</p> <p>The practice of physical therapy, as used in Chapter 4755. of the Revised Code, means engaging in physical therapy, as defined in division (A) of section 4755.40 of the Revised Code, including providing consultative services.</p>	<p>4755.40 4755-27-01</p> <p><u>Frequently Asked Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Joint mobilization by PTA 14. Dry needling by the PTA 20. Use of external oxygen in physical therapy 24. Providing fitness and wellness screenings 25. Restorative and maintenance therapy
2. Definition of "PT Diagnosis"	<p>In Ohio: "Physical therapy diagnosis" means a judgment that is made after examining the neuromusculoskeletal system or evaluating or studying its symptoms and that utilizes the techniques and science of physical therapy to establish a plan of therapeutic intervention. "Physical therapy diagnosis" does not include a medical diagnosis.</p>	<p>4755.40(A)(1) and (2)</p>
3. Supervision & Delegation	<p>Supervision for a physical therapist assistant does not require the supervising physical therapist to be on-site or on location. The supervising physical therapist must be available by telecommunication at all times and able to respond appropriately to the needs of the patient.</p> <p>On-site supervision is required for student physical therapists and student physical therapist assistants.</p> <p>A physical therapist assistant or other licensed personnel must also produce evidence of appropriate training and demonstrate knowledge and competency in any procedure, treatment, or service that the supervising physical therapist delegates to that individual.</p> <p>The supervising physical therapist may not delegate treatments, procedures, or services to a physical therapist assistant or other licensed personnel if the supervising</p>	<p>4755-27-02 Supervision 4755-27-03 Delegation 4755-27-04 Supervision</p> <p><u>Frequently Asked Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Ratio of PTAs to supervising PT 10. PTA administration of functional tests 11. Administration of hot/cold packs by a therapy aide 12. PTA role in home assessments 31. Role of unlicensed personnel in documenting care

	<p>physical therapist cannot demonstrate knowledge and competency in the procedure, even if the physical therapist assistant or other licensed personnel can demonstrate knowledge and competency in the procedure.</p> <p>Third party payer policies and/or federal regulations may be more or less restrictive than the Ohio Physical Therapy Practice Act and may change frequently. It is the recommendation of the Physical Therapy Section that licensees follow the more restrictive policies.</p>	
<p>4. Renewal of License & Continuing Education requirements</p>	<p>Licensed PTs must complete 24 hours of Ohio approved continuing education for each 2-year license renewal period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two of the CE hours must include ethics through the Jurisprudence Assessment Module • All PT licenses expire on January 31 of even numbered years. <p>Licensed PTAs must complete 12 hours of Ohio approved continuing education for each 2-year license renewal period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two of the CE hours must include ethics through the Jurisprudence Assessment Module • All PTA licenses expire on January 31 of odd numbered years. <p>Renewals open on November 1 the prior year and cost \$70. Fill out a renewal application at http://elicense.ohio.gov.</p> <p>CE unit hours may be granted for additional activities other than CE approved courses.</p>	<p>4755.46 Renewals 4755.51 Continuing education</p> <p>4755-23-08 Continuing Education</p> <p>CE courses must be approved by the Ohio Physical Therapy Association. Approved courses may be found at: https://www.ohiopt.org/page/AppCECoursesOH</p> <p>Application for CE approval can be found at: https://www.ohiopt.org/page/ContinuingEducation</p> <p>The Jurisprudence Assessment Module costs \$48 and may be found at: https://www.fsbpt.org/Our-Services/Jurisprudence-Assessment-Module-JAM-Services/Ohio</p> <p>Additional activities for which CE unit hours may be granted may be found at: 4755-23-08 CE</p>
<p>5. Referrals/ Direct Access</p>	<p>Physical therapists may provide services to a patient upon a referral from a person who is licensed in this state or any other state to practice medicine and surgery, chiropractic, dentistry, osteopathic medicine and surgery, podiatric medicine and surgery, to practice as a physician assistant, or to practice nursing as a certified registered nurse anesthetist, clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse-midwife, or certified nurse practitioner.</p> <p>Overview, see full description in law: If a physical therapist evaluates and treats a patient without a prescription, all of the following in 4755.481 apply:</p>	<p>4755.48 4755.481 & 4755-29-01</p>

	<p>(1) The physical therapist shall, upon consent of the patient, inform the physician or other provider listed above not later than five business days after the evaluation is made.</p> <p>(2) If the physical therapist determines, based on reasonable evidence, that no substantial progress has been made with respect to that patient during the thirty-day period immediately following the date of the patient's initial visit with the physical therapist, the physical therapist shall consult with or refer the patient to a person described in division (H)(1) of section 4755.48 of the Revised Code, unless either of the following applies:</p> <p>(a) The evaluation, treatment, or services are being provided for fitness, wellness, or prevention purposes.</p> <p>(b) The patient previously was diagnosed with chronic, neuromuscular, or developmental conditions and the evaluation, treatment, or services are being provided for problems or symptoms associated with one or more of those previously diagnosed conditions.</p> <p>(3) If the physical therapist determines that orthotic devices are necessary to treat the patient, the physical therapist shall be limited to the application of the following orthotic devices:</p> <p>(a) Upper extremity adaptive equipment used to facilitate the activities of daily living;</p> <p>(b) Finger splints;</p> <p>(c) Wrist splints;</p> <p>(d) Prefabricated elastic or fabric abdominal supports with or without metal or plastic reinforcing stays and other prefabricated soft goods requiring minimal fitting;</p> <p>(e) Nontherapeutic accommodative inlays;</p> <p>(f) Shoes that are not manufactured or modified for a particular individual;</p> <p>(g) Prefabricated foot care products;</p> <p>(h) Custom foot orthotics;</p> <p>(i) Durable medical equipment.</p>	
<p>6. Notifying the Board of name/ business/ address changes</p>	<p>You must notify the Board of a change within 30 days by logging into http://elicense.ohio.gov and adjusting your information.</p>	<p>4755-23-07</p>
<p>7. Duty to report other colleagues, etc.</p>	<p>As a physical therapist/assistant practicing in Ohio, a license holder must report to the physical therapy section any unprofessional, incompetent, or illegal behavior of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant of which the license holder has knowledge.</p>	<p>Reports to the Board can be made at: https://elicense.ohio.gov/OH_HomePage Refer to code of ethics 4755-27-05 (A)(10)</p>
<p>8. Self-reporting requirements</p>	<p>Self-report the following to the Board within 30 days:</p> <p>(A) Impairment by physical or mental illness, chemical use, or chemical dependency, that affects the applicant's or license holder's ability to practice with reasonable skill and safety.</p> <p>(B) Conviction of a felony.</p>	<p>4755-27-06</p>

	<p>(C) Conviction of a misdemeanor when the act that constituted the misdemeanor occurred during the practice of physical therapy.</p> <p>(D) The termination, revocation, or suspension of membership by a state or national physical therapy professional association.</p> <p>(E) The termination, revocation, suspension, or sanctioning of a credential for any state license issued by a state or national physical therapy credentialing organization, including the PT compact.</p> <p>(F) A positive drug and/or alcohol screening.</p> <p>(G) A finding of malpractice by a court of competent jurisdiction.</p>	
9. Documentation requirements	<p>Reports written by the physical therapist assistant for inclusion in the patient's record shall be cosigned by the supervising physical therapist. The cosignature shall indicate that the supervising physical therapist reviewed the written note and agrees with the patient information in the written note. A handwritten signature or electronic signature is acceptable whenever a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant signs his or her name.</p> <p>(E) All documentation by student physical therapists and student physical therapist assistants shall be cosigned by the supervising physical therapist.</p>	<p>4755-27-07 Frequently Asked Questions: 18. Discharge summary 23. Transfer of care 26. Transfer of care 30. Online documentation</p>
10. Telehealth/ Digital Practice requirements	<p>When treating a patient located in Ohio through telehealth, the PT (and PTA if appropriate) must be licensed in Ohio.</p>	<p>Telehealth guidance: https://otptat.ohio.gov/Portals/0/OTPTAT%20Board%20-%20telehealth.pdf Televisits in skilled nursing facility settings: https://otptat.ohio.gov/Portals/0/Televisit%20guidance%20OOT%20and%20PT.pdf</p>
11. PT Compact	<p>Ohio participates in the interstate PT Compact and allows licensees who hold an active, unrestricted license as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in a Compact Member state to purchase a Privilege to Practice physical therapy on patients located in Ohio. A Compact Privilege to Practice in Ohio requires the licensee to pass the Ohio Jurisprudence Assessment Module prior to practicing with a Compact Privilege in Ohio.</p>	<p>PT Compact: http://ptcompact.org/ Ohio JAM: https://www.fsbpt.org/Our-Services/Jurisprudence-Assessment-Module-JAM-Services/Ohio</p>