



State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS
Louisiana Physical Therapy Board

July 7, 2016

Licensees,

In response to numerous inquiries from licensees, the Board is responding to the question, "Can physical therapists make a diagnosis." Physical therapists are licensed to perform an initial physical therapy evaluation and determine a physical therapy diagnosis according to La R.S. 37: §§ 2407.A.1 and 2407.A.5. La R.S. 2407. C., reads as follows, "In seeking and receiving reimbursement for services, an initial physical therapy evaluation as defined in this Chapter shall be considered a physical therapy diagnosis and shall not constitute the practice of medicine."

While patient access to physical therapy has changed, the scope and practice of physical therapy remains the same:

1. Physical therapists conduct an initial physical therapy examination and render a physical therapy diagnosis treating only those conditions within the physical therapy scope of practice. In addition, a physical therapist remains responsible for managing all aspects of the physical therapy care of each patient.
2. A physical therapist must continue to practice within his/her individual scope of practice by exercising sound professional judgment based on his/her individual knowledge, skill set, education, training and experience, and only perform those procedures in which he/she is competent.
3. If in practicing within his/her individual scope of practice the physical therapist finds that the treatment needed is outside his/her scope of knowledge, experience, or expertise, the physical therapist must notify the patient and appropriately refer to another healthcare provider.

The Louisiana Physical Therapy Board wishes to make this transition to direct patient access as easy as possible. Please reference the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board website for the complete language of La. R.S. 37:2418 as amended. If you have any questions regarding the changes in the law, please contact the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board Office at 337-262-1043 or 888-400-9110.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charlotte F. Martin".

Charlotte F. Martin
Executive Director