



State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS
Louisiana Physical Therapy Board
104 FAIRLANE DRIVE | LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA 70507
PHONE 337-262-1043 | FAX 337-262-1054
WWW.LAPTBOARD.ORG | INFO@LAPTBOARD.ORG

BOARD STATEMENT

The use of Ultrasound in Physical Therapy Practice in Louisiana

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The practice of physical therapy is the evaluation and treatment of any physical or medical condition to restore normal function of the neuromuscular and skeletal system, to relieve pain, or to prevent disability by use of physical or mechanical means, including therapeutic exercise, mobilization, passive manipulation, therapeutic modalities, and activities or devices for preventative, therapeutic, or medical purposes. The initial physical therapy evaluation is the assessment and resulting interpretation of a patient's conditions through use of objective tests or measurements to determine neuromusculoskeletal and biomechanical dysfunction to determine the need for physical therapy.

Any physical or mechanical mean or device for preventative, therapeutic or medical purposes can be used by a physical therapist to evaluate and treat any physical or medical condition to restore normal function of the neuromuscular and skeletal system, to relieve pain or to prevent disability. Ultrasound devices for therapeutic and medical purposes are available to the physical therapist depending on his knowledge, skill, education, training, and experience. The use of ultrasound machines has been part of the practice of physical therapy in Louisiana before the practice act was created in 1966. The use of ultrasound for therapeutic purposes can be traced back to the 1930s in medical literature. The use of diagnostic ultrasound by physical therapists can be traced back to the 1960s, where it was used to guide rehabilitation decision making in physical therapy practice. The practice act clearly provides for the use of ultrasound in physical therapy practice.