

PTA Supervision: Home Health/School Settings/Developmental

Bill Summary: this bill will amend Paragraph c of Section 6738 of the Education Law, and Paragraph c of Section 6738 of the Education Law and update PTA supervision in the home health and school settings.

Talking Points: Summary On November 21 of this year (2026), Physical Therapist Assistants in New York State will be able to treat patients under the general supervision of Physical Therapists in all treatment settings. General supervision is currently allowed in home health and school settings, however there is a requirement for a joint visit by the PT and PTA following the PT evaluation prior to initiation of care by the PTA. T

This bill will remove the joint visit requirement. The joint visit requirement introduces unnecessary administrative burden on the part of home health agencies and school settings. It adds costs to the healthcare system. It also impacts care continuity as it often leads to multiple healthcare practitioners involved in patient care due to scheduling challenges. It is important to note that it is within the scope of practice (SOP) of PTAs to administer treatments established by the PT based upon the PT evaluation and plan of care (POC)., and that PTAs cannot change the POC. Only the PT can modify the POC. This bill will allow efficient care delivery while maintaining high standards of care and reducing operational costs.

- **General Supervision is defined** as continuous, but not necessarily requiring the physical presence of the physical therapist at the time and place where services are being performed. The physical therapist must be available for consultation with the physical therapy assistant or patient within a reasonable amount of time.
- **Physical Therapist Assistants (PTAs) are *licensed* healthcare providers** in NYS; they are required to take and pass a standardized licensing examination in order to practice.
- **The PT is responsible for evaluating the patient, interpreting exam findings, developing the plan of care, and modifying the POC.** The duties of the PTA do not include evaluating the patient, interpreting exam findings, developing the plan of care, or modifying the POC. Further, the physical therapist is responsible for determining when the patient has met treatment goals and should be discharged.
- **PTAs practice under the direction and supervision of a licensed Physical Therapist.** They are educated to administer physical therapy interventions assigned by the PT safely and effectively.
- **Eliminating the requirement for a joint visit by the PT and PTA** in home health and schools settings will provide more flexibility for the therapy workforce, more efficient use of resources and allow for greater patient access to care, particularly in underserved communities, while ensuring public protection.

- **Periodic treatment by the PT is required:** in home health settings, this must occur every six patient visits or thirty days, whichever occurs first; in the school setting every twelfth visit or thirty days whichever occurs first
- There is currently a **workforce shortage of PTs**. Removing the onsite supervision requirement for PTAs will increase access to physical therapy services, especially in underserved or rural areas where there is more likely to be a shortage of PTs.