

Position Statement – North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

1. Supervision and Documentation (Notes)

Posted – 1998

Updated – April 5, 2010, September 23, 2010, June 13, 2013, Oct 21, 2014, June 17, 2015

To answer questions about the supervision and the note writing authority of physical therapist assistants, physical therapy aides, and students, refer to the information charted below:

	PT	PTA	PT AIDES	PT Student	PTA Student
Supervision* Required:	No	Works under PT	On-site* by PT or PTA	By PT or PTA ¹	By PT or PTA
Treatments:					
Interprets orders	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Evaluates patient	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Establishes Treatment Programs	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Performs Treatment Program	Yes	Yes	Yes, if activity is commensurate with training & ability and under appropriate supervision	Yes	Yes, if activity is commensurate with training and ability and under appropriate supervision
Modifies Program:	Yes	Minor changes	No	Yes	Minor changes
Final Visit:	Yes	Yes, but PT decides when treatment ends	No	Yes	No

CHARTS:	PT	PTA	PT Aides	PT Student	PTA Student
Writes:					
Daily Notes	Yes	Yes	Description of treatment or recording patient's comments	Yes	Yes
Discharge Evaluation Summary	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Brief Discharge Notes	Yes	Yes ²	No	Yes	Yes ²
Notes Required to be Cosigned:					
Initial Evaluations	No	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A
Reassessments	No	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes
Notes with Significant Incidents	No	Yes	Yes - limited to description of incident only	Yes	Yes
Daily Notes	No	No	Yes	Yes ³	Yes
Discharge Evaluation Summary	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A

If a physical therapist assistant or physical therapy aide is involved in the patient care plan, the patient must be reassessed by the supervising physical therapist every 60 days or 13 visits, whichever occurs first.

¹ A PTA may only supervise a PT student performing the procedures the PTA is licensed and competent to perform. (For example: a PTA may not supervise a PT student who is doing an evaluation.)

² If the note is strictly a summary that reviews information in the chart and does not include evaluation or assessment.

³ A PTA may only cosign a PT student's treatment note when the PTA is licensed and competent to perform the treatment procedures. (For example: a PTA may not cosign a PT student's evaluation.)

Types of Supervision

- PTA by PT
- PT must be responsible for adequate supervision of PTA at all times.
 - PT must be available to the PTA at all times and must be knowledgeable about the patient.
 - PT must follow-up on patient and program as appropriate.
 - PT must be involved in discharge planning.

Aide by PT or PTA - On-site supervision.

***Location of Supervision** On-site - in same facility (or campus, if facility consists of more than 1 building). Can vary depending on experience of aide and nature of treatment.