

## **Position Statement – North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners**

### **12. Removal of Sutures or Staples by a PT**

**Adopted – August 11, 2006 (PT); July 13, 2007 (PTA)**

**Reviewed – September 23, 2010, June 17, 2015**

#### **Position on Removal of Sutures or Staples by a Physical Therapist**

*Posted on NC Board of PT Examiners Web Page – August 11, 2006*

Q: Can a physical therapist remove sutures or staples?

A: While not a part of the scope of physical therapy practice, the Board has determined that a properly trained physical therapist can remove sutures or staples provided that he/she makes it very clear to the patient that this is not physical therapy and does not bill it as such.

#### **Position on Removal of Sutures or Staples by a Physical Therapist Assistant**

*Posted on NC Board of PT Examiners Web Page – July 13, 2007*

Q: Can a physical therapist assistant remove sutures and staples?

A: Since this procedure is not within the scope of practice of physical therapy, the Board does not take a position on whether a PTA can remove sutures or staples; however, it is important to reiterate the basic premise that the supervising physical therapist is ultimately responsible for the activities of the PTA.

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