

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

### **6. Performance of Finger Blood Specimens**

**Adopted – December 28, 2001**

**Updated – December 6, 2006**

**Reviewed by the Board – September 23, 2010, June 17, 2015**

The performance of fingerstick blood specimens for analysis of Pro-times is not considered part of the scope of practice for physical therapy; however, it would not be a violation of the **North Carolina Physical Therapy Practice Act** for a PT or PTA to do a fingerstick with a physician's order provided that the physical therapist has been properly trained and is competent, and makes it clear to the patient that this procedure is not physical therapy. When the PT or PTA performs a finger stick, the PT or PTA should communicate the results to a nurse so that the nurse can interpret and communicate the results to the physician to make medication modifications. (*See Board Position regarding the “Physical Therapist’s Role in Recording Medications on OASIS Forms”.*) In addition, the physical therapist cannot bill for his or her time as physical therapy. Lastly, the NCBPTE cannot speak for other Boards as to whether the performance of fingersticks would violate other practice acts. The NCBPTE can only say that it is not a violation of the **North Carolina Physical Therapy Practice Act**.

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