

Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy

Revised Declaratory Statement

March 1, 2024

Physical Therapist Assistant Supervision

(Reference: Section Part 3103 Rule 8.2)

The purpose of this declaratory statement is to clarify the supervision requirements between the physical therapist and physical therapist assistant. The initial evaluation visit by the PT does not require the presence of the PTA. However, before the PTA can treat the patient independently, the PT must have a case conference with the PTA to discuss the evaluation, review the established plan of care, and provide the PTA with any instructions needed for the safe and effective treatment of the patient. This case conference may be face to face or by phone. Specifically, this means that there should be a synchronous two-way interactive discussion or face to face. This case conference must be documented in the patient's record and signed by either the PT or the PTA. It must be noted that it is the responsibility of the PT to adequately orient the PTA to the patient and a joint visit may be necessary to accomplish this. It also must be noted that it is the responsibility of the PTA to be sure that they have received adequate information on the patient from the PT before beginning treatment. The PT is still required to provide treatment and reassess the patient on the 6th visit or the 30th calendar day, whichever comes first. There is no requirement that the PTA be present for the initial visit or follow-up visits by the PT but the PT must case conference with the PTA after each of these visits before the PTA treats the patient independently. The counting of the 6 visits begins with the first treatment visit by the PTA. Again, the case conference must be noted in the patient's record. These supervision regulations apply to all settings where PTAs provide treatment including inpatient, outpatient, and home health.