

LEVELS OF SUPERVISION HOD P06-19-13-45 [Initial: HOD P06-00-15-26] [Position]

The American Physical Therapy Association supports the following levels of supervision within the context of physical therapist practice. The following levels of supervision are the minimum required for safe and effective physical therapist services. The application of a higher level of supervision may occur at the discretion of the physical therapist based on jurisdictional law regarding supervision, patient or client factors, the skills and abilities of the personnel being supervised, facility requirements, or other factors.

Further information regarding supervision is available in Direction and Supervision of the Physical Therapist Assistant, Student Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant Provision of Services, and The Role of Aides in a Physical Therapy Service.

General Supervision: General supervision applies to the physical therapist assistant. The physical therapist is not required to be on site for supervision but must be available at least by telecommunication. The ability of the physical therapist assistant to provide services shall be assessed on an ongoing basis by the supervising physical therapist.

Direct Supervision: Direct supervision applies to supervision of the student physical therapist and student physical therapist assistant. The physical therapist, or the physical therapist assistant when supervising a student physical therapist assistant, is physically present and immediately available for supervision. In both cases, the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant will have direct contact with the patient or client on each date of service. Telecommunication does not meet the requirement of direct supervision.

Direct Personal Supervision: Direct personal supervision applies to supervision of a physical therapy aide. The physical therapist, or where allowable by law the physical therapist assistant, is physically present and immediately available to supervise tasks that are related to patient and client services. The physical therapist maintains responsibility for patient and client management at all times.

Explanation of Reference Numbers:

HOD P00-00-00-00 stands for House of Delegates/**month/year/page/vote** in the House of Delegates minutes; the "P" indicates that it is a position (see below). For example, HOD P06-17-05-04 means that this position can be found in the June 2017 House of Delegates minutes on Page 5 and that it was Vote 4.

P: Position | S: Standard | G: Guideline | Y: Policy | R: Procedure