

DIRECT ACCESS to PHYSICAL THERAPY

YOU CAN BE SEEN BY A PHYSICAL THERAPIST IN CONNECTICUT WITHOUT BEING REFERRED BY YOUR PHYSICIAN

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2006 , sSB 164 bill was passed

AN ACT CONCERNING PATIENT ACCESS TO PHYSICAL THERAPY.

This bill allows a licensed physical therapist to treat human ailments without an oral or written referral if he:

1. has practiced physical therapy for at least three out of the most recent six years of his clinical practice or earned a master's or higher degree in physical therapy from an accredited institution of higher education;
2. requires the patient to disclose or confirm the name of his primary care provider or provider of record the first time he treats him without referral;
3. provides information to anyone seeking treatment about the need to consult with his primary care provider or provider of record regarding the person's underlying condition if it is prolonged, does not improve within 30 days, or still requires continuous treatment; and
4. refers the patient to one of the licensed practitioners listed (physician, podiatrist, natureopath, chiropractor, dentist, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant), after examination or reexamination, the condition for which the patient sought physical therapy does not show objective, measurable, functional improvement in any 30-day consecutive period or at the end of six visits, whichever occurs sooner.

- Exceptions to this law include **worker's compensation & liability** cases

Medicare patients can be seen for an evaluation only without a physician referral. Physician written or oral authorization can be obtained on the evaluation day in order to begin treatment as soon as possible

If you have any questions, please call our help desk at 860-679-0430