

STATE OF WISCONSIN
PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF RULEMAKING	:	NOTICE OF TIME PERIOD
PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE	:	FOR COMMENTS FOR THE
PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINING	:	ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS
BOARD	:	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the time period for public comment on the economic impact of this proposed rule of the Physical Therapy Examining Board on PT 1 and 5 relating to telehealth and supervision of physical therapist assistants, including how this proposed rule may affect businesses, local government units and individuals. The comments will be considered when the Department of Safety and Professional Services prepares the Economic Impact Analysis pursuant to § 227.137. Written comments may be submitted to:

Sofia Anderson, Administrative Rules Coordinator
Division of Policy Development
Department of Safety and Professional Services
PO Box 8366
Madison, WI 53708-8935
DSPSAdminRules@wisconsin.gov

The deadline for submitting economic impact comments is **November 19, 2025**.

PROPOSED ORDER

An order of the Physical Therapy Examining Board **to amend** PT 5.01 (2) (h) and **to create** PT 1.02 (12m) relating to telehealth and supervision of physical therapist assistants

Analysis prepared by the Department of Safety and Professional Services.

ANALYSIS

Statutes interpreted: Section 448.56, Stats.

Statutory authority: Sections 15.08 (5) (b), 227.11 (2) (a), 440.17, and 448.56 (6), Stats.

Explanation of agency authority:

Section 15.08 (5) (b), Stats., provides an examining board “[s]hall promulgate rules for its own guidance and for the guidance of the trade or profession to which it pertains. . .”

Section 227.11 (2) (a), Stats., provides that “[e]ach agency may promulgate rules interpreting the provisions of any statute enforced or administered by the agency, if the agency considers it necessary to effectuate the purpose of the statute...”

Section 440.17, Stats., provides that “[i]f the department, an examining board, or an affiliated credentialing board promulgates rules related to telehealth, the department, the examining board, or the affiliated credentialing board shall define ‘telehealth’ to have the meaning given in s. 440.01 (1) (hm).”

Section 448.56 (6), Stats., provides that “[a] physical therapist assistant may assist a physical therapist in the practice of physical therapy if the physical therapist provides direct or general supervision of the physical therapist assistant. The examining board shall promulgate rules defining ‘direct or general supervision’ for purposes of this subsection. Nothing in this subsection interferes with delegation authority under any other provision of this chapter.”

Related statute or rule:

Chapters PT 1 and 5

Plain language analysis:

The Board reviewed the supervision requirements in chapter PT 5 in order to bring it up to current standards of practice in supervising physical therapist assistants according to new telehealth practice based on the changes of 2021 Wisconsin Act 121. The following are the changes made by the Board:

1. Added a definition of “telehealth” in PT 1.02 (12m).
2. Amended the provision in PT 5.01 (2) (h) to remove the term “on-site” as a requirement for the assessment and reevaluation of a patient when a physical therapist is providing supervision. This was done to allow for the assessment and reevaluation to be done via telehealth, provided specific conditions are met.

Summary of, and comparison with, existing or proposed federal regulation:

None

Summary of public comments received on statement of scope and a description of how and to what extent those comments and feedback were taken into account in drafting the proposed rule:

N/A

Comparison with rules in adjacent states:

Illinois

The Illinois Physical Therapy Act states that physical therapist assistants can perform patient care activities under the general supervision of a licensed physical therapist, who must maintain continual contact with the physical therapist assistant including periodic personal supervision and instruction. In the case of physical therapist or physical therapist assistant students, the physical therapist supervising shall be on-site and readily available for direct supervision and instruction to protect the safety and welfare of the patient. Per the Act, a physical therapist assistant working under supervision may provide physical therapy via telehealth as long as it is not an initial evaluation without a referral or established diagnosis, which can only be performed by a physical therapist. The Act also states that the use of telehealth must be an exception in case of documented hardships related to geographical, physical, or weather-related conditions. Additionally, the patient must be able to request and receive in-person care at any point of the treatment, which means a physical therapy practice must have the capacity to provide in-person care within the State of Illinois. [225 ILCS 90]

Iowa

Iowa establishes that a physical therapist who is providing supervision must be readily available on-site or telephonically for advice, assistance, or instruction any time a physical therapist assistant is providing physical therapy services. The supervising physical therapist shall hold regularly scheduled meetings with the physical therapist assistant to evaluate their performance, assess the progress of the patient, and make changes to the plan of care as needed. The frequency of the meetings should be determined by the supervising physical therapist based on the needs of the patient, the supervisory needs of the physical therapist assistant, and any planned discharge. The minimum frequency of direct participation by a supervising physical therapist shall be determined by the physical therapist using professional judgment and based on the needs of the patient. The Code states that direct participation can occur through an in-person or telehealth visit and establishes minimum standards depending on the setting where the physical therapy services are being performed. In a hospital inpatient and skilled nursing, the direct participation has to happen at least once per calendar week. In all other setting, the direct participation must happen at least every 8th visit or every 30 calendar days, whichever comes first. [481 IAC 801.4]

In regard to telehealth visits, Iowa provides that a licensee may engage in telehealth visits as long as they are held to the same standard of care as a licensee who provides in-person physical therapy and that telehealth visits should not be used if the technology does not guarantee the same standard of care as an in-person visit. [481 IAC 801.3]

Michigan

Michigan establishes that a physical therapist shall supervise a physical therapist assistant to whom they have delegated acts, tasks, or functions. This supervision shall include regular meetings to evaluate the physical therapist assistant's performance, review records, and educate the physical therapist assistant on the acts, tasks, or functions that have been delegated. [MI Admin. Code R 338.7138]

Michigan also establishes that telehealth visits are permissible provided that the licensee is acting within the scope of their practice and is exercising the same standard of care applicable to a traditional, in-person healthcare service. [MI Admin Code R 338.7127]

Minnesota

Minnesota establishes that physical therapist who delegate components of a patient's treatment to a physical therapist assistant shall provide on-site observation of the treatment and documentation of its appropriateness at least every 6 treatment sessions. However, the provision declares that the physical therapist is not required to be on site but must be easily available by telecommunications. [MN Statutes Section 148.706]

Summary of factual data and analytical methodologies:

The Board reviewed chs. PT 1 and 5 to clarify the requirements of telehealth and supervision of physical therapist assistants. The Board also researched the legislation in adjacent states when determining the conditions for appropriate electronic communications when providing supervision to physical physical assistants.

Analysis and supporting documents used to determine effect on small business or in preparation of economic impact analysis:

The proposed rules will be posted for a period of 14 days to solicit public comment on economic impact, including how the proposed rules may affect businesses, local government units, and individuals.

Fiscal Estimate and Economic Impact Analysis:

The Fiscal Estimate and Economic Impact Analysis is attached.

Effect on small business:

These proposed rules do not have an economic impact on small businesses, as defined in s. 227.114 (1), Stats. The Department's Regulatory Review Coordinator may be contacted by email at Daniel.Hereth@wisconsin.gov, or by calling (608) 267-2435.

Agency contact person:

Sofia Anderson, Administrative Rules Coordinator, Department of Safety and Professional Services, Division of Policy Development, P.O. Box 8366, Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8306; email at DSPSAdminRules@wisconsin.gov.

Place where comments are to be submitted and deadline for submission:

Comments may be submitted to Sofia Anderson, Administrative Rules Coordinator, Department of Safety and Professional Services, Division of Policy Development, 4822 Madison Yards Way, P.O. Box 8366, Madison, WI 53708-8366, or by email to

DSPSAdminRules@wisconsin.gov. Comments must be received on or before the public hearing on February 3, 2026, to be included in the record of rule-making proceedings.

TEXT OF RULE

SECTION 1. PT 1.02 (12m) is created to read:

PT 1.02 (12m) “Telehealth” has the meaning given in s. 440.01 (1) (hm), Stats.

SECTION 2. PT 5.01 (2) (h) is amended to read:

PT 5.01 (2) (h) Provide ~~on-site~~ assessment and reevaluation of each patient at a minimum of one time per calendar month or every tenth treatment day, whichever is sooner, and adjust the treatment plan as appropriate. The assessment and reevaluation may be conducted via telehealth if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The supervising physical therapist, using their professional judgment, determines that telehealth is an appropriate modality for the patient's specific condition and circumstances.
2. The patient or their legal guardian has provided informed consent that is specific to the use of telehealth for these services.
3. The supervising physical therapist is responsible for all of the following:
 - a. Determining and documenting the clinical reasons why telehealth is appropriate for the assessment and reevaluation.
 - b. Ensuring that telehealth services are provided in real time, allowing for interactive communication between the physical therapist and the patient.
 - c. Determining that any person assisting the patient at the remote location during a telehealth session is capable of safely providing the necessary assistance.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. The rules adopted in this order shall take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register, pursuant to s. 227.22 (2) (intro.), Stats.

(END OF TEXT OF RULE)
