

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT SUPERVISION RULES

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

When will the rules be effective?

The rules will be effective May 11, 2009.

When will the new Form #5, Verification of Supervision, be available?

The new Form #5 is now available on the Board's web site – www.okmedicalboard.org.

What constitutes a "Group"?

More than one PT.

How many PTAs can be in a Group?

The number is unlimited as long as there is one PT in the Group for every three PTAs.

Can I be in a Group and also practice outside the Group?

Yes.

Do I qualify as a Group?

Not unless you are more than one person.

Does a Home Health company qualify as a Group?

Yes, if it employs more than one PT.

How many PTAs can I supervise if I work in a group at an agency and also work at a clinic in a group?

The three PTAs to one PT ratio must be maintained at any given time for each practice setting; otherwise, the number is unlimited. The caveat here is that the PT is the physical therapist of record for each patient whose care he or she delegates to a PTA, with all the responsibilities that entails. And the PT must do one co-treatment at least every three months with each PTA under general supervision to whom they delegate patient care.

What is the Physical Therapist of Record?

The Physical Therapist of Record is the Physical Therapist who performs the initial evaluation and who remains responsible for the provision of care to that patient for the entire course of their treatment. The supervision of the care for that patient remains the responsibility of the Physical Therapist of Record unless it is documented that there is a new Physical Therapist of Record.

If a PTA working for a PRN agency goes to a hospital, are they now part of that group or are they still part of the agency group?

It is determined by the Physical Therapist of Record who is delegating care to the PTA. The PT of Record should be listed on the Form #5 as the PTA's supervising therapist, either individually or as part of a group.

How many people can an individual PT supervise?

You can supervise up to four licensed personnel or applicants for licensure. Only three may be PTAs or applicants for PTA licensure. Any of the four may be applicants for PT licensure. This total is inclusive of all geographic locations or employing agencies. This limit does not apply to or include PTAs supervised in a group setting.

What if the supervising PT goes on vacation? Does the PTA have to submit a new Form #5?

Not necessarily. The supervising PT may temporarily delegate the supervision of up to three licensed PTAs to an alternate supervising PT who agrees to provide consultation to the PTA(s) for existing plans of care for up to thirty days. In this case, a new Form #5 is not required, but the alternate supervising physical therapist must be identified as the Therapist of Record in the documentation.

If the alternate supervising PT delegates the care of his or her own patients to the PTA, a Form #5 must be completed showing that PT as a supervising PT of Record.

In a group setting, as long as there are enough PTs left to maintain the ratio of one PT for every three PTAs, a new Form #5 is not required.

PT/PTA Co-treatments—who needs them?

Each PTA under general supervision must have one co-treatment every three months with each supervising PT who delegates patient care to that PTA. PTAs working in a group setting where direct supervision is always provided are not required to log co-treatments.

How long does a co-treatment need to be?

The rules do not specify any length of time for the co-treatment.

Do I have to do a co-treatment with each patient?

No. You do not need to do a co-treatment with each patient or log each patient treated. The rules require one co-treatment with the supervising PT every three months, which must be documented in the patient record and in a log kept by the PTA.