

**Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2025**

SENATE BILL NO. 2273
(Senators Bekkedahl, Boschee, Lee)
(Representatives Koppelman, Satrom)

AN ACT to amend and reenact subsection 14 of section 43-26.1-01 and section 43-26.1-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to diagnostic imaging by physical therapists.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 14 of section 43-26.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

14. "Practice of physical therapy" means:
- a. Examining, evaluating, and testing individuals with mechanical, physiological, and developmental impairments, functional limitations in movement and mobility, and disabilities or other health and movement-related conditions to determine a diagnosis for physical therapy, prognosis, and plan of therapeutic intervention, and to assess the ongoing effects of intervention. The term includes ordering ~~musculoskeletal diagnostic imaging consisting of plain film radiographs to be performed by a professional authorized by chapter 43-62 and interpreted by a licensed physician trained in radiology interpretation, and using these results to determine if a referral to another health care provider is necessary or indicates the necessary treatment is within the physical therapist's scope of practice.~~
 - b. Alleviating impairments, functional limitations in movement and mobility, and disabilities by designing, implementing and modifying therapeutic interventions that may include therapeutic exercise; neuromuscular education; functional training related to positioning, movement, and mobility in self-care and in-home, community, or work integration or reintegration; manual therapy; therapeutic massage; prescription, application and, as appropriate, fabrication of assistive, adaptive, orthotic, prosthetic, protective, and supportive devices and equipment related to positioning, movement, and mobility; airway clearance techniques; integumentary protection and repair techniques; debridement and wound care; physiotherapy; physical agents or modalities; mechanical and electrotherapeutic modalities; and patient-related instruction.
 - c. Engaging as a physical therapist in reducing the risk of injury, impairment, functional limitation and disability, including the promotion and maintenance of fitness, health, and wellness in populations of all ages.
 - d. Engaging as a physical therapist in administration, consultation, education, and research.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 43-26.1-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

43-26.1-11.1. Ordering imaging.

1. A physical therapist may order ~~musculoskeletal diagnostic imaging consisting of plain film radiographs~~ if the physical therapist holds:
 - a. Holds a clinical doctorate degree in physical therapy; or ~~has completed~~
 - b. Completed a board-approved formal medical imaging training program.

2. A physical therapist ordering diagnostic imaging shall report the results to the patient's designated specialty or primary care provider within seven days of receipt of the image to ensure coordination of care, unless:
 - a. The patient does not have a specialty or primary care provider; or
 - b. The specialty or primary care provider received the images from the health care professional who performed or interpreted the images.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2273.

Senate Vote: Yeas 45 Nays 0 Absent 2

House Vote: Yeas 88 Nays 1 Absent 5

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2025.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2025.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2025,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State