

Introduced by

Senators Bekkedahl, Boschee, Lee

Representatives Koppelman, Satrom

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 14 of section 43-26.1-01 and section
2 43-26.1-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to diagnostic imaging by physical
3 therapists.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

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

7 14. "Practice of physical therapy" means:

- 8 a. Examining, evaluating, and testing individuals with mechanical, physiological,
9 and developmental impairments, functional limitations in movement and mobility,
10 and disabilities or other health and movement-related conditions to determine a
11 diagnosis for physical therapy, prognosis, and plan of therapeutic intervention,
12 and to assess the ongoing effects of intervention. The term includes ordering
13 ~~musculoskeletal diagnostic imaging consisting of plain film radiographs to be~~
14 performed by a professional authorized by chapter 43-62 and interpreted by a
15 licensed physician trained in radiology interpretation, and using these results to
16 determine if a referral to another health care provider is necessary or indicates
17 the necessary treatment is within the physical therapist's scope of practice.
- 18 b. Alleviating impairments, functional limitations in movement and mobility, and
19 disabilities by designing, implementing and modifying therapeutic interventions
20 that may include therapeutic exercise; neuromuscular education; functional
21 training related to positioning, movement, and mobility in self-care and in-home,
22 community, or work integration or reintegration; manual therapy; therapeutic
23 massage; prescription, application and, as appropriate, fabrication of assistive,
24 adaptive, orthotic, prosthetic, protective, and supportive devices and equipment

- 1 related to positioning, movement, and mobility; airway clearance techniques;
2 integumentary protection and repair techniques; debridement and wound care;
3 physiotherapy; physical agents or modalities; mechanical and electrotherapeutic
4 modalities; and patient-related instruction.
- 5 c. Engaging as a physical therapist in reducing the risk of injury, impairment,
6 functional limitation and disability, including the promotion and maintenance of
7 fitness, health, and wellness in populations of all ages.
- 8 d. Engaging as a physical therapist in administration, consultation, education, and
9 research.

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

12 **43-26.1-11.1. Ordering imaging.**

- 13 1. A physical therapist may order musculoskeletal diagnostic imaging consisting of plain-
14 film radiographs if the physical therapist holds:
- 15 a. Holds a clinical doctorate degree in physical therapy; or has completed
16 b. Completed a board-approved formal medical imaging training program.
- 17 2. A physical therapist ordering diagnostic imaging shall report the results to the patient's
18 designated primary care provider within seven days of receipt of the image to ensure
19 coordination of care, unless:
- 20 a. The patient does not have a primary care provider; or
21 b. The primary care provider received the images from the health care professional
22 who performed or interpreted the images.