

January 27, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

### SENATE BILL NO. 2273

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

- 1 training related to positioning, movement, and mobility in self-care and in-home,  
2 community, or work integration or reintegration; manual therapy; therapeutic  
3 massage; prescription, application and, as appropriate, fabrication of assistive,  
4 adaptive, orthotic, prosthetic, protective, and supportive devices and equipment  
5 related to positioning, movement, and mobility; airway clearance techniques;  
6 integumentary protection and repair techniques; debridement and wound care;  
7 physiotherapy; physical agents or modalities; mechanical and electrotherapeutic  
8 modalities; and patient-related instruction.
- 9 c. Engaging as a physical therapist in reducing the risk of injury, impairment,  
10 functional limitation and disability, including the promotion and maintenance of  
11 fitness, health, and wellness in populations of all ages.
- 12 d. Engaging as a physical therapist in administration, consultation, education, and  
13 research.

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

16 **43-26.1-11.1. Ordering imaging.**

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