



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB2153

Introduced 2/7/2025, by Sen. Cristina Castro

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

225 ILCS 90/1.3

Amends the Illinois Physical Therapy Act. Provides that initial physical therapy evaluations without a referral or an established diagnosis may be performed by a licensed physical therapist via telehealth when the physical therapist determines that an in-person examination is not required based on the physical therapist's clinical judgment and the applicable standard of care (rather than cannot be performed via telehealth unless necessary to address a documented hardship). Provides that a physical therapist or a licensed physical therapy assistant may require the patient to undergo an in-person visit instead of providing telehealth services (rather than the use of telehealth as a primary means of delivering physical therapy must be an exception and documentation must support the clinical justification). Provides that a physical therapist providing telehealth must have the capacity to provide or be able to facilitate a referral to in-person care within the State (rather than must only have the capacity to provide in-person care). Provides that the standard of care for a patient receiving physical therapy through telehealth is equal to the standard of care for in-person care.

LRB104 09779 AAS 19845 b

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Physical Therapy Act is amended by
5 changing Section 1.3 as follows:

6 (225 ILCS 90/1.3)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2026)

8 Sec. 1.3. Telehealth services.

9 (a) Physical therapy through telehealth services may be
10 used to address access issues to care, enhance care delivery,
11 or increase the physical therapist's ability to assess and
12 direct the patient's performance in the patient's own
13 environment.

14 (b) A physical therapist or physical therapist assistant
15 working under the general supervision of a physical therapist
16 may provide physical therapy through telehealth services
17 pursuant to the terms and use defined in the Telehealth Act and
18 the Illinois Insurance Code subject to the following
19 conditions:

20 (1) Initial physical therapy evaluations without a
21 referral or established diagnosis may only be performed by
22 a licensed physical therapist and may be performed via
23 telehealth when the physical therapist determines that an

1 in-person examination is not required based on the
2 physical therapist's clinical judgment and the applicable
3 standard of care. ~~and cannot be performed via telehealth~~
4 ~~unless necessary to address a documented hardship,~~
5 ~~including, but not limited to, geographical, physical, or~~
6 ~~weather related conditions.~~

7 (2) A physical therapist or a licensed physical
8 therapy assistant may require the patient to undergo an
9 in-person visit instead of providing telehealth services.
10 ~~The use of telehealth as a primary means of delivering~~
11 ~~physical therapy must be an exception and documentation~~
12 ~~must support the clinical justification.~~

13 (3) A patient receiving physical therapy must be able
14 to request and receive in-person care at any point during
15 their treatment.

16 (4) A physical therapist providing telehealth must
17 have the capacity to provide or be able to facilitate a
18 referral to in-person care within the State of Illinois.

19 (5) The standard of care for a patient receiving
20 physical therapy through telehealth is equal to the
21 standard of care for in-person care.

22 (Source: P.A. 103-849, eff. 1-1-25.)