

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7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2026)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) Physical therapists may use telehealth to perform
21 an initial physical therapy evaluation if one of the
22 following criteria is met:

23 (i) the patient has a referral or diagnosis;

1 (ii) the patient is an established patient; or

2 (iii) the physical therapist has the capacity to
3 perform or facilitate a referral for an in-person,
4 hands-on examination or re-examination by a physical
5 therapist at any time throughout the course of the
6 patient's care. ~~Initial physical therapy evaluations~~
7 ~~without a referral or established diagnosis may only~~
8 ~~be performed by a licensed physical therapist and~~
9 ~~cannot be performed via telehealth unless necessary to~~
10 ~~address a documented hardship, including, but not~~
11 ~~limited to, geographical, physical, or weather related~~
12 ~~conditions.~~

13 (2) A physical therapist may require a patient to
14 undergo an in-person visit instead of providing telehealth
15 services. ~~The use of telehealth as a primary means of~~
16 ~~delivering physical therapy must be an exception and~~
17 ~~documentation must support the clinical justification.~~

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

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

24 (5) A physical therapist or a physical therapist
25 assistant may engage in the practice of telehealth
26 services in this State to the extent of his or her scope of

1 practice as established in this Act and consistent with
2 the standards of care for in-person services. This Section
3 shall not be construed to authorize the delivery of
4 physical therapy services in a setting or in a manner not
5 otherwise authorized by law.

6 (6) A physical therapist treating a patient located in
7 this State through telehealth services must be licensed or
8 authorized to practice physical therapy in this State.

9 (7) The Department may, by rule, exempt physical
10 therapists and physical therapist assistants providing
11 physical therapy services as part of the Illinois Early
12 Intervention Program, an individualized education program,
13 or a federal Section 504 plan through a school system from
14 this Section to address service delays.

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