



KENTUCKY STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Ernie Fletcher
Governor

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Rebecca E. Klusch
Executive Director

September 22, 2005

Donna Diedrich, PT
Regional Director of Clinical Services
Aegis Therapies
1000 Beverly Way
Fort Smith, AR 72919

Re: Opinion and Declaratory Ruling regarding state law governing physical therapist's assistants' home visits by the Kentucky State Board of Physical Therapy

Dear Ms. Diedrich:

This correspondence is in response to your letter dated [date] asking for an opinion from the Kentucky State Board of Physical Therapy on an issue regarding physical therapist's assistants' home visits.

Please keep in mind that this correspondence is an opinion of the Board based solely on the facts you have presented, which will be summarized below. The Board has authorized this opinion to you as an Opinion and Declaratory Ruling pursuant to KRS 13A.130(3) and KRS 13A.010(2)(b) as the agency with jurisdiction to interpret the statutes and regulations governing the practice of physical therapy in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

I. Home visits by the physical therapist's assistant.

The Board is presented with the question whether the P.T.A. may "take patients or residents on home visits." You stated that such patients are receiving physical therapy in a long term care facility, with the goal of returning to the home environment of the patient. You have asked whether the P.T.A. may conduct a home visit to the patient even if the patient is a patient of record of the physical therapist at a long term care facility.

The board is of the opinion that a P.T.A. may accompany a patient on a home visit to provide services as long as the home visit is within the physical therapy plan of care for that patient. The patient may be treated within the home setting, and the P.T.A. may gather information related to the home environment/barriers and report this information to the physical therapist consistent with the plan of care for that patient.

The following administrative regulation applies:

201 KAR 22:053, Section 3. Standards of Practice for the Physical therapist Assistant. When engaged in the practice of physical therapy the physical therapist assistant shall: (4) Upon direction from the physical therapist, gather data relating to the patient's disability, but not determine the significance of the data as it pertains to the development of the plan of care.

As such, it would be within the above regulation for the P.T.A. to “gather data relating to the patient’s disability” by attending to the patient in the home setting, if such task is “upon direction from the physical therapist” as evidenced by a plan of care for that patient.

II. Conclusion.

As the agency authorized by the Kentucky General Assembly to regulate the practice of physical therapy in this state, the Board is empowered to interpret its statutes and regulations. In summary, 201 KAR 22:053, Section 3, allows the P.T.A. to attend to the patient in a home setting even if the patient is a patient of a long term care facility.

Sincerely yours,

Kentucky State Board of Physical Therapy

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tina A. Volz".

Tina Volz, P.T., Chair

cc: Board members