



Jeff Landry
Governor

State of Louisiana
Department of Health and Hospitals

Charlotte F. Martin, M.P.A.
Executive Director

Louisiana Physical Therapy Board

August 26, 2024

Michael Holmes
Capitol Imaging Services
4241 Veterans Memorial Blvd
#100
Metairie, LA 70006

Re: PT Practice Act for Referring Imaging Referrals

Dear Michael,

The Louisiana Physical Therapy Board is in receipt of your correspondence dated May 28, 2024 requesting clarification on imaging referral by physical therapists in Louisiana. At the July 24, 2024 Regular Board Meeting, the board members approved the following response.

The Board is responding to the questions pursuant to the following referenced authority: The Louisiana Physical Therapy Act, La. R.S. 37:2401 *et seq.*, was “enacted for the purpose of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare, and to provide for state administrative control, supervision, licensing, and regulation of the practice of physical therapy in Louisiana.” La. R.S. 37:2402(A). La. R.S. 37:2405(A) of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Act vests in the board the responsibility for enforcement of the provisions of the Act and provides that the board “shall have all the powers, duties, and authority specifically granted by or necessary for the enforcement of this Chapter,” including but not limited to “[e]stablishing by rule the standards of practice”. La. R.S. 37:2405(A)(8). Additionally, the board may “[a]dopt by reference all or part of the following codes, guides, and standards of the American Physical Therapy Association: Code of Ethics, Guide for Professional Conduct, Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant, and Guide for Conduct of the Physical Therapist Assistant, except when such are in conflict with this Chapter or the rules of the board.” La. R.S. 37:2405(B)(14). Additionally, Section 121 of the Board Rules provides: “The board may issue a declaratory statement on its own initiative or in response to a request for clarification of the effect of the provisions contained in the Practice Act, R.S. 37:2401 *et seq.*, and/or the board’s rules, LAC 46:LIV.Chapter 1 *et seq.*”

Are there any prohibitions for a Physical Therapist (one with a doctorate or one without) from referring (writing the physical order) for medi[c]al imaging? There are subsections to this question.

Nothing in the Louisiana Physical Therapy Practice Act, La. R.S. 37:2401-2425, nor the Board's Rules, LAC tit. 46: LIV §103 *et seq.*, prohibits a physical therapist from referring or writing a physical order in order to refer to an appropriate healthcare provider or practitioner for medical imaging.

1. Can PTs refer patients for medical imaging that uses radiation?

Yes. Nothing in the Louisiana Physical Therapy Practice Act, La. R.S. 37:2401-2425, nor the Board's Rules, LAC tit. 46: LIV §103 *et seq.*, prohibits a physical therapist from referring patients to an appropriate healthcare provider or practitioner for medical imaging that uses radiation.

2. Can PTs refer patients for medical imaging that does not use radiation, such as ultrasound and MRI?

Yes. Nothing in the Louisiana Physical Therapy Practice Act, La. R.S. 37:2401-2425, nor the Board's Rules, LAC tit. 46: LIV §103 *et seq.*, prohibits a physical therapist from referring patients to an appropriate healthcare provider or practitioner for medical imaging that does not use radiation, such as ultrasound and MRI.

3. Can PTs refer patients for medi[c]al imaging that uses contrast or isotopes along with the imaging?

Yes. Nothing in the Louisiana Physical Therapy Practice Act, La. R.S. 37:2401-2425, nor the Board's Rules, LAC tit. 46: LIV §103 *et seq.*, prohibits a physical therapist from referring patients to an appropriate healthcare provider or practitioner for medical imaging that uses contrast or isotopes along with the imaging.

Please refer to the bottom of the practice act in reference to the scope of practice and mandates for the radiology technologists to apply the radiation to a human being. This is a sticking point we will be reaching out to the LA board of RT. I would like your opinion from the State Association on this paragraph.

As you are requesting the State Association's opinion and this is the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board, the Board refers you to contact the State Association (APTA-LA) directly. Their website lists a contact number which is (225) 922-4614 and an email address which is office@lpta.org.

Thank you,



Charlotte F. Martin, MPA
Executive Director