

1967 Legislation
re. Revised Definition.



Maryland

Chapter

A M E R I C A N P H Y S I C A L T H E R A P Y A S S O C I A T I O N

February 16, 1967

TO: Members of the Maryland State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners
The Medical & Chirurgical Faculty of Md., Attn. Mr. Sargeant, Exc. Sec.
Mr. Joseph Kaufman, Legal Advisor to the A.P.T.A. of Md.

FROM: The American Physical Therapy Association of Maryland

RE: Legislation, 1967

On February 15, the A.P.T.A. of Md. adopted a motion to seek introduction of an amendment to the physical therapy law by striking out the present definition of physical therapy as in Sec. 604 and substituting a new definition; and by adding, as in Sec. 605, a definition of The Practice of Physical Therapy. (See attached sheet)

The present Sec. 605 defining a Physical Therapist would stand as is except that this, and subsequent sections, would be renumbered due to insertion of a new Sec. 605.

Just as the word "medicine" has two meanings according to Dorland's dictionary 1. Any drug or remedy. 2. The art or science of healing diseases, we believe that physical therapy has, besides the literal translation meaning physical treatment, a meaning designating it as a profession. It is to define physical therapy as a profession rather than just a form of treatment that we have restated this part of the definition.

In regard to the second part, it has been felt for a long time that the physical therapy law has been inadequate in not spelling out a definition of the Practice of Physical Therapy.

There is no effort to disguise any part of the previous definition, nor to include any broad or hidden meaning. Neither is there any effort to increase the scope of physical therapy practice. The intent is, rather, to state in a dignified, straight forward and clear-cut manner the accepted and customary functions of a physical therapist.

Previous to the meeting of the A.P.T.A. on February 15 the definitions were previewed by one of our advisors, Dr. Karl Mech.

We are seeking your approval for the proposed legislation, and, since February 28 is the last day for introduction of new bills, we are respectfully requesting that this matter be given your prompt attention.

While sponsoring legislation to redefine physical therapy, the A.P.T.A. of Md. adopted a motion to oppose any legislation which would license physical therapy assistants, at the present time.

Signed,

Florence P. Kendall
Florence P. Kendall, Chairman
Legislative Committee

SEC. 604. Physical Therapy defined

[As used in this subtitle, the term "Physical Therapy" means the treatment of any disability, injury, disease, or other condition of health of human beings; or the prevention of such disability, injury, disease, or other condition of health; and the rehabilitation as related thereto by use of the physical, chemical, and other properties of air, cold, heat, electricity, exercise, massage, radiant energy, including ultra-violet, visible, and infra-red rays, ultra-sound, water, and apparatus and equipment used in the application of the foregoing, or related thereto; the performance of tests of neuromuscular function as an aid to such treatment. The use of Roentgen rays for surgical purposes, including cauterization, are not authorized under the term "physical therapy" as used in this subtitle.]

Physical Therapy is a para-medical specialty concerned with the physical rehabilitation of persons having disability, injury, or disease.

SEC. 605. The Practice of Physical Therapy defined

The practice of physical therapy means the practice, for compensation directly or indirectly paid, of the para-medical specialty and includes:

1. Performing and interpreting tests and measurements of neuromuscular and musculo-skeletal function *as an aid to treatment;* ①
2. Planning initial and subsequent treatment programs, on the basis of the test-findings; and
3. Administering treatment through the use of therapeutic exercise, massage, mechanical devices, and therapeutic agents which employ the physical, chemical, and other properties of air, water, electricity, sound, and radiant energy;

but does not include the use of Roentgen rays or radium, nor the use of electricity for cauterization or surgery.

(Renumbering of subsequent sections due to insertion of new Section 605.)

① Added at the request of The Med. & Chir. Faculty.