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Physical Therapist Practice Amendments
2025 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Calvin R. Musselman
House Sponsor: Norman K Thurston

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses physical therapists and primary care providers.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- expands the definition of primary health care to include the services of physical therapists;
- recognizes that a health insurance policy has discretion to allow an insured to select a physical therapist as the insured's primary care provider for a neuromusculoskeletal condition; and
- makes conforming and technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

26B-4-301, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 261

31A-22-624, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 349

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **26B-4-301** is amended to read:

26B-4-301 . Definitions.

As used in this part:

- (1) "Committee" means the Primary Care Grant Committee described in Section 26B-1-410.
- (2) "Community based organization":

- 29 (a) means a private entity; and
- 30 (b) includes for profit and not for profit entities.
- 31 (3) "Cultural competence" means a set of congruent behaviors, attitudes, and policies that
- 32 come together in a system, agency, or profession and enables that system, agency, or
- 33 profession to work effectively in cross-cultural situations.
- 34 (4) "Emergency medical dispatch center" means a public safety answering point, as defined
- 35 in Section 63H-7a-103, that is designated as an emergency medical dispatch center by
- 36 the office.
- 37 (5) "Health literacy" means the degree to which an individual has the capacity to obtain,
- 38 process, and understand health information and services needed to make appropriate
- 39 health decisions.
- 40 (6) "Institutional capacity" means the ability of a community based organization to
- 41 implement public and private contracts.
- 42 (7) "Medically underserved population" means the population of an urban or rural area or a
- 43 population group that the committee determines has a shortage of primary health care.
- 44 (8) "Office" means the Office of Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness within the
- 45 department.
- 46 (9) "Pregnancy support services" means services that:
- 47 (a) encourage childbirth instead of voluntary termination of pregnancy; and
- 48 (b) assist pregnant women, or women who may become pregnant, to choose childbirth
- 49 whether they intend to parent or select adoption for the child.
- 50 (10) "Primary care grant" means a grant awarded by the department under Subsection
- 51 26B-4-310(1).
- 52 (11)(a) "Primary health care" means:
- 53 (i) basic and general health care services given when a person seeks assistance to
- 54 screen for or to prevent illness and disease, or for simple and common illnesses
- 55 and injuries; and
- 56 (ii) care given for the management of chronic diseases.
- 57 (b) "Primary health care" includes:
- 58 (i) services of physicians, nurses, physician's assistants, physical therapists, and
- 59 dentists licensed to practice in this state under Title 58, Occupations and
- 60 Professions;
- 61 (ii) diagnostic and radiologic services;
- 62 (iii) preventive health services including perinatal services, well-child services, and

63 other services that seek to prevent injury, disease, or [its] the consequences of
 64 injury or disease;

- 65 (iv) emergency medical services;
- 66 (v) preventive dental services; and
- 67 (vi) pharmaceutical services.

68 Section 2. Section **31A-22-624** is amended to read:

69 **31A-22-624 . Primary care physician, physician assistant, or physical therapist.**

70 (1) An accident and health insurance policy that requires an insured to select a primary
 71 care provider or physician to receive optimum coverage shall permit an insured to select
 72 a participating provider who is:

73 [~~(1) shall permit an insured to select a participating provider who:~~]

74 [(~~a~~) is an:]

75 [(~~+~~) (a)(i) an obstetrician;

76 (ii) a gynecologist;

77 (iii) a pediatrician; or

78 (iv) a physician assistant who works with a physician:

79 (A) providing primary care; or

80 (B) described in [~~Subsections~~] Subsection (1)(a)(i), (ii), or (iii); and

81 (b) [~~is-~~]qualified and willing to provide primary care services, as defined by the health
 82 care plan, as the insured's provider from whom primary care services are received[;] .

83 (2) Subject to Subsection (5), an accident and health insurance policy that requires an
 84 insured to select a primary care provider or physician to receive optimum coverage may
 85 permit an insured to select a participating provider who is a physical therapist to provide
 86 physical therapy services.

87 [~~(2)~~] (3) An accident and health insurance policy shall clearly state in literature explaining
 88 the policy the [option] options available to insureds under [Subsection (1); and]
 89 Subsections (1) and (2).

90 [~~(3)~~] (4) An accident and health insurance policy may not impose a higher premium, higher
 91 copayment requirement, or any other additional expense on an insured because the
 92 insured selected a primary care physician in accordance with [Subsection (1)] this section.

93 (5) Notwithstanding Subsection (2), nothing in this section permits a physical therapist to
 94 practice physical therapy outside of the physical therapist's scope of practice under Title
 95 58, Chapter 24b, Physical Therapy Practice Act.

96 Section 3. **Effective Date.**

97 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.