

SB0196S02 compared with SB0196S01

{Omitted text} shows text that was in SB0196S01 but was omitted in SB0196S02

inserted text shows text that was not in SB0196S01 but was inserted into SB0196S02

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Physical Therapist Practice Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Calvin R. Musselman

House Sponsor:

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

None

AMENDS:

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

SB0196S01

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

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- 23 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*
- 24 Section 1. Section **26B-4-301** is amended to read:
- 25 **26B-4-301. Definitions.**
- As used in this part:
- 27 (1) "Committee" means the Primary Care Grant Committee described in Section 26B-1-410.
- 28 (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 come together in a system, agency, or profession and enables that system, agency, or profession to work effectively in cross-cultural situations.
- 34 (4) "Emergency medical dispatch center" means a public safety answering point, as defined in Section 63H-7a-103, that is designated as an emergency medical dispatch center by the office.
- 37 (5) "Health literacy" means the degree to which an individual has the capacity to obtain, process, and understand health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions.
- 40 (6) "Institutional capacity" means the ability of a community based organization to implement public and private contracts.
- 42 (7) "Medically underserved population" means the population of an urban or rural area or a 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 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 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 26B-4-310(1).
- 52 (11)
- . (a) "Primary health care" means:
- 53

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- (i) basic and general health care services given when a person seeks assistance to screen for or to prevent illness and disease, or for simple and common illnesses 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 dentists licensed to practice in this state under Title 58, Occupations and Professions;
- 61 (ii) diagnostic and radiologic services;
- 62 (iii) preventive health services including perinatal services, well-child services, and other services that seek to prevent injury, disease, or [its] the consequences of 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 care provider or physician to receive optimum coverage shall permit an insured to select a participating provider who is:
- 73 [~~(1) shall permit an insured to select a participating provider who:~~]
- 74 [~~(a) is an:~~]
- 75 [~~(i)~~] (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 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 insured to select a primary care provider or physician to receive optimum coverage may permit an insured to select a participating provider who is a physical therapist, {if:} to provide physical therapy services.

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- 86 ~~{(a) {the insurance coverage for which the selection is made is for a neuromusculoskeletal condition;~~
~~and}}}~~
- 88 ~~{(b) {the physical therapist meets the requirements of Subsection (1)(b).}}}~~
- 89 [(2)] (3) An accident and health insurance policy shall clearly state in literature explaining the policy
the [option] options available to insureds under [Subsection (1); and] Subsections (1) and (2).
- 92 [(3)] (4) An accident and health insurance policy may not impose a higher premium, higher copayment
requirement, or any other additional expense on an insured because the insured selected a primary
care physician in accordance with [Subsection (1)] this section.
- 95 (5) Notwithstanding Subsection (2), nothing in this section permits a physical therapist to practice
physical therapy outside of the physical therapist's scope of practice under Title 58, Chapter 24b,
Physical Therapy Practice Act.

96 Section 3. **Effective date.**

This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.

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