

SB0196S01 compared with SB0196

{Omitted text} shows text that was in SB0196 but was omitted in SB0196S01

inserted text shows text that was not in SB0196 but was inserted into SB0196S01

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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 {~~musculoskeletal~~} 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

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21 **31A-22-624** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 349 , as last amended by Laws of
Utah 2019, Chapter 349

22

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;
- 64 (iv) emergency medical services;
- 65 (v) preventive dental services; and
- 66 (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 physician to receive optimum coverage shall permit an insured to select a participating provider who is:

71 {(+)}

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

72 ~~[(a) is {f} an {} :]~~

73 ~~[(1)] (a)~~

. (i) an obstetrician;

74 (ii) a gynecologist;

75 (iii) a pediatrician; or

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

77 (A) providing primary care; or

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

79 (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[;].

81 ~~{(2)} { may permit an insured to select a participating provider who is a physical therapist, if: }~~

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82 ~~{(a)}~~ ~~{the insurance coverage for which the selection is made is for a musculoskeletal condition; and}~~

84 ~~{(b)}~~ ~~{the physical therapist meets the requirements of Subsection (1)(b);}~~

85 ~~{(2)}~~ ~~{(3)}~~

83 (2) Subject to Subsection (5), an accident and health insurance policy that requires an insured to select a primary care physician to receive optimum coverage may permit an insured to select a participating provider who is a physical therapist, if:

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).

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

87 ~~[(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.

98 Section 3. **Effective date.**

This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.

2-4-25 7:26 AM