

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 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":
 - (a) means a private entity; and
 - (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 disease or its consequences;
64 (iv) emergency medical services;

65 (v) preventive dental services; and

66 (vi) pharmaceutical services.

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

68 **31A-22-624 . Primary care physician, physician assistant, or physical therapist.**

69 An accident and health insurance policy that requires an insured to select a primary care
70 physician to receive optimum coverage:

71 (1) shall permit an insured to select a participating provider who:

72 (a) is~~an~~:

73 (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
80 care plan, as the insured's provider from whom primary care services are received;

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

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

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

85 [~~(2)~~] (3) shall clearly state in literature explaining the policy the [~~option~~] options available to
86 insureds under [~~Subsection (1)~~] Subsections (1) and (2); and

87 [~~(3)~~] (4) may not impose a higher premium, higher copayment requirement, or any other
88 additional expense on an insured because the insured selected a primary care physician
89 in accordance with [~~Subsection (1)~~] this section.

90 Section 3. **Effective Date.**

91 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.