

1 **Physician Assistant Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Stephen L. Whyte

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill makes changes to provisions related to physician assistants.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- makes technical changes to provisions related to physician assistants to conform to current code.

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 2025, Chapters 50, 340 and 470

31A-22-624, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 50

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

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

26B-4-301 . Definitions.

22 As used in this part:

23 (1) "Bureau" means the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services created in Section
24 53-2d-102.

25 (2) "Committee" means the Primary Care Grant Committee described in Section 26B-1-410.

26 (3) "Community based organization":

27 (a) means a private entity; and

28 (b) includes for profit and not for profit entities.

29 (4) "Cultural competence" means a set of congruent behaviors, attitudes, and policies that
30 come together in a system, agency, or profession and enables that system, agency, or

31 profession to work effectively in cross-cultural situations.

32 (5) "Health literacy" means the degree to which an individual has the capacity to obtain,
33 process, and understand health information and services needed to make appropriate
34 health decisions.

35 (6) "Institutional capacity" means the ability of a community based organization to
36 implement public and private contracts.

37 (7) "Medically underserved population" means the population of an urban or rural area or a
38 population group that the committee determines has a shortage of primary health care.

39 (8) "Pregnancy support services" means services that:

40 (a) encourage childbirth instead of voluntary termination of pregnancy; and
41 (b) assist pregnant women, or women who may become pregnant, to choose childbirth
42 whether they intend to parent or select adoption for the child.

43 (9) "Primary care grant" means a grant awarded by the department under Subsection
44 26B-4-310(1).

45 (10)(a) "Primary health care" means:

46 (i) basic and general health care services given when a person seeks assistance to
47 screen for or to prevent illness and disease, or for simple and common illnesses
48 and injuries; and
49 (ii) care given for the management of chronic diseases.

50 (b) "Primary health care" includes:

51 (i) services of physicians, nurses, ~~[physician's]~~ physician assistants, physical
52 therapists, and dentists licensed to practice in this state under Title 58,
53 Occupations and Professions;
54 (ii) diagnostic and radiologic services;
55 (iii) preventive health services including perinatal services, well-child services, and
56 other services that seek to prevent injury, disease, or the consequences of injury or
57 disease;
58 (iv) emergency medical services;
59 (v) preventive dental services; and
60 (vi) pharmaceutical services.

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

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

63 (1) An accident and health insurance policy that requires an insured to select a primary care
64 provider or physician to receive optimum coverage shall permit an insured to select a

65 participating provider who is:

66 (a)(i) an obstetrician;

67 (ii) a gynecologist;

68 (iii) a pediatrician; or

69 (iv) a physician assistant[~~who works with a physician~~]:

70 (A) providing primary care; or

71 (B) described in Subsection (1)(a)(i), (ii), or (iii); and

72 (b) qualified and willing to provide primary care services, as defined by the health care
73 plan, as the insured's provider from whom primary care services are received.

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

78 (3) An accident and health insurance policy shall clearly state in literature explaining the
79 policy the options available to insureds under Subsections (1) and (2).

80 (4) An accident and health insurance policy may not impose a higher premium, higher
81 copayment requirement, or any other additional expense on an insured because the
82 insured selected a primary care physician in accordance with this section.

83 (5) Notwithstanding Subsection (2), nothing in this section permits a physical therapist to
84 practice physical therapy outside of the physical therapist's scope of practice under Title
85 58, Chapter 24b, Physical Therapy Practice Act.

86 Section 3. **Effective Date.**

87 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.