

Stephen L. Whyte proposes the following substitute bill:

**Physician Assistant Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Stephen L. Whyte**

Senate Sponsor: Michael K. McKell

---

---

**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;
- amends provisions related to insurance coverage for primary care related to physician assistants; and
- makes technical and conforming 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 2025, Chapters 50, 340 and 470

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

---

---

*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) "Bureau" means the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services created in Section 53-2d-102.
- (2) "Committee" means the Primary Care Grant Committee described in Section 26B-1-410.
- (3) "Community based organization":

- (a) means a private entity; and
- (b) includes for profit and not for profit entities.
- (4) "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.
- (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.
- (6) "Institutional capacity" means the ability of a community based organization to implement public and private contracts.
- (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.
- (8) "Pregnancy support services" means services that:
- (a) encourage childbirth instead of voluntary termination of pregnancy; and
- (b) assist pregnant women, or women who may become pregnant, to choose childbirth whether they intend to parent or select adoption for the child.
- (9) "Primary care grant" means a grant awarded by the department under Subsection 26B-4-310(1).
- (10)(a) "Primary health care" means:
- (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
- (ii) care given for the management of chronic diseases.
- (b) "Primary health care" includes:
- (i) services of physicians, nurses, ~~[physician's]~~ physician assistants, physical therapists, and dentists licensed to practice in this state under Title 58, Occupations and Professions;
- (ii) diagnostic and radiologic services;
- (iii) preventive health services including perinatal services, well-child services, and other services that seek to prevent injury, disease, or the consequences of injury or disease;
- (iv) emergency medical services;
- (v) preventive dental services; and
- (vi) pharmaceutical services.

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

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

- (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:
- (a)(i) an obstetrician;
  - (ii) a gynecologist;
  - (iii) a pediatrician; or
  - (iv) a physician assistant who ~~[works with a physician:]~~ has trained in a primary care physician's office and completed the physician assistant's collaboration requirement described in Section 58-70a-307; and  
~~[(A) providing primary care; or]~~  
~~[(B) described in Subsection (1)(a)(i), (ii), or (iii); and]~~
- (b) 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.
- (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 to provide physical therapy services.
- (3) An accident and health insurance policy shall clearly state in literature explaining the policy the options available to insureds under Subsections (1) and (2).
- (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 this section.
- (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.

Section 3. **Effective Date.**

This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.