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New State Law Changes Physical Therapy Requirements

A new state law that went into effect July 1 allows individuals to go directly to a physical therapist without first going to a general physician for a referral, saving patients both time and money by eliminating an additional health care office visit.

Previously, individuals who were hurt could go to a physical therapist, but the therapist was not allowed to begin a treatment program without first obtaining a referral from a licensed doctor, nurse practitioner or physician assistant

Under the new law, patients will be able to see a physical therapist for treatment without a referral from a physician or other health care provider. Treatment may continue without a referral as long as the patient is progressing toward documented treatment goals demonstrated by objective, measurable, or functional improvement.

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