

# Michigan Moves Better with Physical Therapy

## Top Legislative Issues

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### Some great news for 2022!!!

#### PTs / PTAs are now Mandatory Reporters of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect

- **Public Act 47 of 2022: This bill went into effect 6/21/22**
  - PTs, PTAs, OTs and ATs are now also included as mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect.
  - The law requires PTs and PTAs to report to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) if they have reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or child neglect.
  - For more information regarding mandatory reporting, including how to report actual or suspected abuse or neglect, please visit the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Website](#)
    - If you suspect abuse or neglect, report it any time day or night online at [Online Reporting Website for Mandatory Reporters](#) or by calling 855-444-3911.

#### Health Insurance Prior Authorization Standardization

- **Public Act 60 of 2022: This bill went into effect 4/7/22**
  - An amendment to the Insurance Code setting parameters for health insurers and their utilization review entities for benefit pre-authorizations.
  - Includes:
    - Establishing a standardized electric/internet-based prior authorization transaction process
    - Requiring prior authorization requirements are based upon peer-reviewed clinical review criteria that is updated at least annually
    - Establishing requirements on denials and appeals
    - Insurers must publish a list of all benefits that require prior authorization
    - Establishing a timeline for insurer authorization response and expiration
      - An authorization is valid for no less than 60 days
      - Non-Urgent Requests: Authorization will be automatically granted after 9 days until May 31, 2024, after which it is 7 days
      - Urgent Requests: Authorization will be automatically granted after 72 hours
    - Insurers must annually publish an aggregated list of prior authorization data to DIFS including: number of requests, number of denials, top 10 denied services, top 10 reasons for denial
  - The language included in this new law is the culmination of the work of APTA-MI and our *Health Can't Wait* coalition partners. ([Health Can't Wait](#))

**A special thanks goes out to Evelyn Sweeney of MHSA, Julia Rice (Director of APTA Michigan), the APTA Michigan Legislative Action and Political Action Committees, and everyone who has contributed to making their voices heard on these issues that will greatly benefit our patients and our practicing professionals!**

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# Legislation to Support

## *Physical Therapy Interstate Licensure Compact (PTLC)*

- Allow Michigan to join the National PT Compact ([Information about the PT Compact](#))
  - Increases Michigan's PT business friendliness perception for national job applicants
  - Helps meet workforce needs across the state
  - Provides greater consumer access to physical therapy care
- Joining the Compact **DOES NOT** change the practice requirements for PTs/PTAs asking to practice here in Michigan
  - PTs/PTAs interested in practicing in Michigan must follow Michigan's Practice Act, pass the jurisprudence exam and fulfill the Human Trafficking and Implicit Bias requirements.
  - Compact privileges would be open for PTs/PTAs who passed the NPTE. This includes Canadian practitioners.
  - Professionals exercising compact privileges are still responsible for following the practice act of each individual state and thus must pass the state's jurisprudence exam ([How to Obtain PT Compact Privileges](#))

## *No Fault Insurance Revisions*

- The modified reimbursement schedules proposed would allow for increased coverage of services prior to reaching the current 55% cap for rehabilitation and caregiving services.
  - Especially important for those catastrophically injured in auto accidents after the changes to the No-Fault Auto Reform law went into effect July 2, 2021. Their care will be dramatically impacted with the current law that is in place.

## *Telehealth Accessibility and Reimbursement*

- Allow for greater accessibility across the state for physical therapy services by reimbursing telehealth visits provided by physical therapists, especially needed in our more rural or inner-city areas.

## *Unrestricted Direct Access to Physical Therapy Services*

- Goals of proposed legislative bill:
  - Remove requirement for physician prescription prior to physical therapist treatment.
- Published facts supporting Direct Access
  - Forty-eight states and DC have direct consumer access for treatment by a PT.
  - Direct consumer access does not increase cost.
  - There is no relationship between direct consumer access and PT malpractice claims.
  - All licensed physical therapists have graduated from accredited programs by the CAPTE\*.
  - Physical therapists determine a physical therapy diagnosis (not a medical diagnosis).
  - Physical therapists have 3 years of musculoskeletal evaluation and management training. Non-orthopedic physicians have considerably less training.
  - No evidence exists of misdiagnosis or harm when accessing treatment from a physical therapist.

***Thank You for Your Interest and Desire to Help Move Our Profession Forward!***

***Join the APTA Michigan Legislative Advocacy Committee and Get Involved Today!***

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If you have any questions or want to get more involved, please contact the APTA Michigan Legislative Director, Abigail Skallerud [abigail.skallerud@gmail.com](mailto:abigail.skallerud@gmail.com) or [contact@aptami.org](mailto:contact@aptami.org)