

## 13-310. SCOPE OF PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT LICENSE.

## (A) IN GENERAL.

SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT LICENSE AUTHORIZES THE LICENSEE TO PRACTICE LIMITED PHYSICAL THERAPY WHILE THE LICENSE IS EFFECTIVE.

## (B) SUPERVISION REQUIRED.

A LICENSED PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT MAY PRACTICE LIMITED PHYSICAL THERAPY ONLY UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A LICENSED PHYSICAL THERAPIST WHO GIVES PERIODIC ONSITE SUPERVISION AND INSTRUCTION THAT IS ADEQUATE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE PATIENT.

REVISOR'S NOTE: Subsection (a) of this section is standard language added for clarity to this and, where necessary, other titles of this article.

Subsection (b) of this section is new language derived without substantive change from the requirement in Art. 43, § 605(d) that a licensed physical therapist supervise a licensed physical therapist assistant.

In subsection (b) of this section, the present reference to "continued verbal and written contact" is deleted as confusing and, in any event, as inconsistent with the other provisions of this subsection.

The General Assembly may wish to note that the supervision of physical therapist assistants has been a subject of controversy between physicians and physical therapists. Present Art. 43, § 605(d) -- which now appears in subsection (b) of this section and § 13-404 of this title -- states expressly that only a licensed physical therapist may direct a licensed physical therapist assistant. However, present Art. 43, § 122(b)(6) and (d) -- which now appears in § 14-304 of this article -- allows a physician licensed by this State to delegate duties to any individual, including one who is licensed or otherwise authorized to practice any of the health occupations regulated under this article, if the Board of Medical Examiners and the other health occupation board that is regulated under this article adopt joint regulations concerning these duties. Alternatively, if there is no agreement between the two boards, each board shall submit its own rules and regulations to the Secretary for a final decision. The State Board of Medical Examiners and the State Board of Physical Therapy