

## **Provisions**

(A) The physical therapist shall, upon the consent of the patient, inform the patient's physician, doctor of chiropractic, dentist, podiatrist, or osteopath not later than five (5) business days after the evaluation. If the patient presents to the physical therapist for a problem for which the patient has been seen by a physician within the past twelve (12) months, the consent of the patient is not necessary to inform. If the patient has no physician then the physical therapist shall make a suggestion from list of available providers and shall inform the patient of the thirty (30) day limitation in subdivision (C) below;

(B) If no substantial progress has been within fifteen (15) calendar days or six (6) visits, whichever occurs first, immediately following the date of the patient's initial visit, the physical therapist shall refer the patient to a licensed physician. If the patient previously was diagnosed with chronic, neuromuscular, or developmental and the evaluation, treatment, or services are being provided for problems or symptoms associated with one (1) or more of those previously diagnosed conditions, then the provisions of this subdivision (B) do not apply. If a patient returns to the physical therapist within ninety (90) days of treatment with the same complaint, then the physical therapist shall make an immediate referral to the appropriate health care provider;

(C) When a patient's licensed doctor has not been notified of the physical therapy services, under no circumstances should therapy services continue beyond thirty (30) days immediately following the date of the patient's first visit.

(D) Considered unprofessional conduct for a physical therapist to knowingly initiate services for the same complaint for which a patient: (i) Has reached the fifteen (15) day and six (6) visit limit imposed by subdivision (B) of this subsection where no substantial progress has been made from another physical therapist; or (ii) Where the patient has reached the forty-five (45) day limit imposed by subdivision (C).

## **Reference:**

American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) <<http://www.apta.org>>