

# PTA Direction Algorithm

(See Controlling Assumptions)

Physical therapist (PT) completes physical therapy patient/client examination and evaluation, establishing the physical therapy diagnosis, prognosis, and plan of care.

Are there interventions within the plan of care that are within the scope of work of a PTA?

No

PT provides patient/client intervention for interventions that are not within the scope of work of the PTA, including all interventions requiring ongoing evaluation.

Yes

Is the patient/client's condition sufficiently stable to direct the intervention to a PTA?

No

PT provides patient/client intervention and determines when/if the patient/client health conditions have stabilized sufficiently to direct selected interventions to a PTA.

Yes

Are the intervention outcomes sufficiently predictable to direct the intervention to a PTA?

No

PT provides patient/client intervention and determines when/if the prognostic conditions have changed sufficiently to direct selected interventions to a PTA.

Yes

Given the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the PTA, is the intervention within the personal scope of work of the individual PTA?

No

PT provides patient/client intervention; assesses the limits of the PTA's personal scope of work, identifies areas for PTA development, and assists the PTA in obtaining relevant development opportunities.

Yes

Given the practice setting, have all associated risks and liabilities been identified and managed?

No

PT provides patient/client intervention and identifies solutions for unmanaged risk and liabilities.

Yes

Given the practice setting, have all associated payer requirements related to physical therapy services provided by a PTA been managed?

No

PT provides patient/client intervention when payer requirements do not permit skilled physical therapy services to be provided by a PTA.

Yes

Direct intervention to the PTA while:

- Maintaining responsibility and control of patient/client management;
- Providing direction and supervision of the PTA in accordance with applicable laws and regulations; and
- Conducting periodic re-assessment/re-evaluation of the patient as directed by the facility, federal and state regulations, and payers.