

**148A.1 Definitions — referral — authorization.**

1. *a.* As used in [this chapter](#), “*board*” means the board of physical and occupational therapy created under [chapter 147](#).

*b.* As used in [this chapter](#), “*physical therapy*” is that branch of science that deals with the evaluation and treatment of human capabilities and impairments. Physical therapy uses the effective properties of physical agents including, but not limited to, mechanical devices, heat, cold, air, light, water, electricity, and sound, and therapeutic exercises, and rehabilitative procedures to prevent, correct, minimize, or alleviate a physical impairment. Physical therapy includes the interpretation of performances, tests, and measurements, the establishment and modification of physical therapy programs, treatment planning, consultative services, instructions to the patients, and the administration and supervision attendant to physical therapy facilities.

2. Physical therapy evaluation and treatment may be rendered by a physical therapist with or without a referral from a physician, podiatric physician, dentist, or chiropractor, except that a hospital may require that physical therapy evaluation and treatment provided in the hospital shall be done only upon prior review by and authorization of a member of the hospital’s medical staff.

[C66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §148A.1]

[84 Acts, ch 1268, §1](#); [86 Acts, ch 1238, §7](#); [87 Acts, ch 65, §3](#); [88 Acts, ch 1002, §1](#); [95 Acts, ch 108, §8](#); [2007 Acts, ch 10, §99](#)

Referred to in [§148A.3](#)