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CS/HB 413

2013 Legislature

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2 An act relating to physical therapy; amending s.
3 486.021, F.S.; authorizing a physical therapist to
4 implement physical therapy treatment plans of a
5 specified duration which are developed by the physical
6 therapist or provided by a practitioner of record or
7 an advanced registered nurse practitioner; providing
8 an effective date.
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10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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12 Section 1. Subsection (11) of section 486.021, Florida
13 Statutes, is amended to read:

14 486.021 Definitions.—In this chapter, unless the context
15 otherwise requires, the term:

16 (11) "Practice of physical therapy" means the performance
17 of physical therapy assessments and the treatment of any
18 disability, injury, disease, or other health condition of human
19 beings, or the prevention of such disability, injury, disease,
20 or other condition of health, and rehabilitation as related
21 thereto by the use of the physical, chemical, and other
22 properties of air; electricity; exercise; massage; the
23 performance of acupuncture only upon compliance with the
24 criteria set forth by the Board of Medicine, when no penetration
25 of the skin occurs; the use of radiant energy, including
26 ultraviolet, visible, and infrared rays; ultrasound; water; the
27 use of apparatus and equipment in the application of the
28 foregoing or related thereto; the performance of tests of

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29 neuromuscular functions as an aid to the diagnosis or treatment
30 of any human condition; or the performance of electromyography
31 as an aid to the diagnosis of any human condition only upon
32 compliance with the criteria set forth by the Board of Medicine.

33 (a) A physical therapist may implement a plan of treatment
34 developed by the physical therapist for a patient or provided
35 for a patient by a practitioner of record or by an advanced
36 registered nurse practitioner licensed under s. 464.012. The
37 physical therapist shall refer the patient to or consult with a
38 ~~health care practitioner of record licensed under chapter 458,~~
39 ~~chapter 459, chapter 460, chapter 461, or chapter 466,~~ if the
40 patient's condition is found to be outside the scope of physical
41 therapy. If physical therapy treatment for a patient is required
42 beyond 21 days for a condition not previously assessed by a
43 practitioner of record, the physical therapist shall obtain a
44 practitioner of record who will review and sign the plan. For
45 purposes of this paragraph, a health care practitioner licensed
46 under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, chapter 461, or
47 chapter 466 and engaged in active practice is eligible to serve
48 as a practitioner of record.

49 (b) The use of roentgen rays and radium for diagnostic and
50 therapeutic purposes and the use of electricity for surgical
51 purposes, including cauterization, are not ~~authorized under the~~
52 ~~term~~ "physical therapy" for purposes of ~~as used in~~ this chapter.

53 (c) The practice of physical therapy ~~as defined in this~~
54 ~~chapter~~ does not authorize a physical therapy practitioner to
55 practice chiropractic medicine as defined in chapter 460,
56 including specific spinal manipulation. For the performance of

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57 | specific chiropractic spinal manipulation, a physical therapist
58 | shall refer the patient to a health care practitioner licensed
59 | under chapter 460.

60 | (d) ~~Nothing in~~ This subsection does not authorize
61 | ~~authorizes~~ a physical therapist to implement a plan of treatment
62 | for a patient currently being treated in a facility licensed
63 | pursuant to chapter 395.

64 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.