



After discussions with the Orthopedic Society of Virginia and Medical Society of Virginia, we have agreed to expand the time frame for Direct access to Physical therapist services from 30 to 60 days. Senator Ghazala Hashmi has agreed to carry the Bill (SB1187). This change in timeframe does not expand scope currently outlined the current statute, nor does it eliminate the relationship between the Physician (or any referral source), Physical Therapist, and the patient that is so valuable for appropriate treatment.

**Tell your Delegate and Senator to support SB 1187 by visiting the APTA Action Center:**

[https://app3.vocusgr.com/WebPublish/controller.aspx?SiteName=APTA&Definition=Home&SV\\_Section=Home](https://app3.vocusgr.com/WebPublish/controller.aspx?SiteName=APTA&Definition=Home&SV_Section=Home)

This legislation seeks to expand the amount of time a Patient has to receive services from a physical therapist and is necessary for the following reasons:

1. Improves outcomes as the patient will not be required to stop therapy to visit a physician's office just to extend care when the patient is improving from the current care being delivered by the physical therapist and is not in need of medications or diagnostic tests.
2. Decreases cost by keeping patients from having to pay additional copays for a physician visit (including expensive diagnostics and medications) when the patient is already improving from conservative care.
3. Ensures safe and effective care, because if a patient is going to require physician care (Imaging, Meds, Injections) the majority will require referral long before the current 30 day period expires. Those with acute, non-traumatic injuries and with more chronic conditions do not require imaging, meds, surgical intervention or injections. They will benefit from continuation of care at lower costs and without disruption due to stopping to see a physician.
4. Enhances patient choice by allowing a patient to choose their provider and continue care as they need.
5. Helps reduce the patient care burden on physicians by allowing them to attend to patients with more serious medical problems. Patients with musculoskeletal problems that do not require more advanced intervention can utilize physical therapy services, thereby receiving faster care and reducing injury time.
6. Enhances PT – Physician collaboration opportunities as care is provided by the most appropriate medical practitioner and the PT communicates with the physician on the patient's care, enhancing quality and delivery of care.
7. Is not a mandate for payment or change in scope. In fact it has no impact on insurance companies. It only extends the amount of time a person can be treated from 30 days to 60 days under the Physical Therapist's practice act.

Please help us improve care for people in Virginia and vote yes for SB 1187.