

Position Statement – NC Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

11. Documentation - Discharge Summary /Episode of Care

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Revised to reflect re-codified statutes April 1, 2019

Revised – June 5, 2024

Can a PTA write a discharge summary or discharge from an episode of care?

No. In accordance with [21 NCAC 48C .0102](#) (e), only a physical therapist may write a Discharge Evaluation Summary that includes a summary of the patient's progress toward meeting the established goals and the determination that treatment is to be discontinued. It would be acceptable for a PTA to write a Brief Discharge Note (eg, A physical therapist evaluates a patient and writes a Discharge Evaluation Summary, but requests the PTA to see the patient for one or two more visits to complete a specific goal. After the PTA has seen the patient for 1 or 2 visits and the patient has met the goal, the PTA can write a Brief Discharge Note to that effect.)

If a patient discharged by a physician (for example, in a hospital setting) has only been seen by physical therapy services on a limited basis, is a Discharge Evaluation Summary or summary of the episode of care required?

No. A Brief Discharge Note written by the PT or PTA that indicates the patient was discharged before a Discharge Summary could be performed is acceptable.

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