

## **Position Statement – NC Board of Physical Therapy Examiners**

### **3. Direct Access**

*Posted – December 17, 2001*

*Revised – September 23, 2010, June 17, 2015, June 5, 2024*

*Reviewed -- June 6, 2018, September 2, 2020, June 8, 2022*

*Revised to reflect re-codified statutes -- April 1, 2019*

*Revised to reflect change to the NC PT Practice Act – effective 10-01-19*

Does North Carolina allow direct access (practice without the legal requirement of a physician's referral) and where can I find it in the NC PT Practice Act?

North Carolina has had direct access since 1985 when the Practice Act was revised by the NC General Assembly.

As defined by both Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy and the American Physical Therapy Association, direct access means physical therapists can provide evaluation and treatment services without the need for an order or referral from a licensed medical doctor or other healthcare professional in accordance with state law.