



AK PT Scope Modernization Work Group - November 26, 2025

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
Wednesday, November 26, 2025 at 11:00 AM AKST to 1:00 PM AKST
Zoom

Meeting Details: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/txyZo-6tSnK-jR2Yz8HpZQ>

Additional Meeting Details: Registration Required

Agenda

1. Call to Order

11:00 AM

Please update your Zoom to Name, City

A. Roll Call

Work Group members:

- Jonathan Gates - PHY Board Member
- Leslie Adrian, FSBPT
- Rebecca Byerley; Alec Kay, Molly Self - APTA-AK
- Kristen Neville - AOTA
- Tina McLean - Sterling
- Jason Fagel - Juneau
- Jessica Hoffman, Utqiagvik
- Mark Cunningham - Soldotna

2. Public Comment

11:05 AM

3. History

11:15 AM

A. Action Items from Meeting on 11/12/25:

1. Eliminating unnecessary definitions - completed
2. Review conversation of adjusting term protection for "physiotherapy" to title protection. - incomplete
3. Accepted suggested changes to terminology as advised by AOTA - completed
4. Board staff contacted APTA-AK representatives in effort to facilitate participation in the workgroup - completed

B. Action Items from Meeting on 11/19/25:

1. Invite Alaska Chiropractic Society and Board of Chiropractic Examiners to attend next work group meeting 11/26, gather input, and work on agreeable draft language that provides assurance of title protection only; not term protection for "physiotherapist".

2. Based on 11/26 discussion, write letter to Board of Chiropractic Examiners for consideration of language to be drafted on 11/26.
3. Ask PHY board to authorize J. Gates to attend 12/5 Board of Chiropractic Examiners meeting to gather stakeholder input at 11/21 PHY Board mtg. - Motion approved by the PT/OT board on 11/21.
4. Crosswalk between AS 08.84.190(7) and new scope modernization draft 11 definition
5. Artificial Intelligence emerging in the field of physical therapy and possible HIPPA concern, for possible inclusion in draft language.

4. Purpose and Summary of Workgroup - Review

11:20 AM

Presenter: Jonathan Gates

A. PT Workgroup Objectives - original

1. Develop a collaborative plan to address modernization of our scope of practice between all stakeholders (including the state licensing board, APTA-AK, national organizations, and licensees) to create statutory change.
2. Identify needs for change/improvement in the current scope of practice language - AS 08.84.190(7)
3. Develop draft language to address any needs that the workgroup identifies.
4. Address the role of PTAs in scope of practice language
5. Develop an updated draft of scope of practice language with future action steps for recommendation to the PHY Board.

B. Objectives - Updated as of 08/07/2025

1. Coordinate with other boards/organizations which may have input and/or concerns (i. e. chiropractic and physician boards)

5. Discussion - Draft Language

11:25 AM

Review and edit current draft of AK practice act as presented to the PT/OT board in August of 2025.

Primary discussion to cover the following:

1. Revisit 08.84.190 (11) (b) and (d), and (9).
2. Consider prescriptive authority for musculoskeletal conditions.
3. Consider injection privileges similar to the US Army model (FYI this was not a point of primary interest to the stakeholders in previous WG meetings).
4. Revisit Primary Care conversation (11)(d).
 1. Look at other definitions of primary care that exist in Alaska statutes.
5. Reach a decision on inclusion/exclusion of each definition in the definitions section.

Resources for discussion of Primary Care:

- 1) AS 21.07.250 (11) "primary care provider" means a health care provider who provides general medical care services and does not specialize in treating a single injury, illness, or condition or who provides obstetrical, gynecological, or pediatric medical care services;

2) AS 08.64.380 (6) = Practice of medicine or practice of osteopathy

(6) "practice of medicine" or "practice of osteopathy" means:

(A) for a fee, donation or other consideration, to diagnose, treat, operate on, prescribe for, or administer to, any human ailment, blemish, deformity, disease, disfigurement, disorder, injury, or other mental or physical condition; or to attempt to perform or represent that a person is authorized to perform any of the acts set out in this subparagraph;

(B) to use or publicly display a title in connection with a person's name including "doctor of medicine," "physician," "M.D.," or "doctor of osteopathic medicine" or "D.O." or a specialist designation including "surgeon," "dermatologist," or a similar title in such a manner as to show that the person is willing or qualified to diagnose or treat the sick or injured;

6. Next Meeting Dates/Times

12:45 PM

- No additional meetings scheduled thus far
- Add meeting dates to discuss the following:
 - Primary care – invite Alaska Medical Board, Alaska State Medical Association, Alaska Primary Care Association
 - Prescriptive rights for PTs.
 - Any Objectives previously described which remain incomplete by the end of the 11/26 meeting.

7. Next Steps

12:55 PM

Objective: Finalize proposed language to be sent to the PT/OT Board for review.

8. Adjourn

1:00 PM