



## **AK PT/OT Board - Scope of Practices Committee Mtg - July 11, 2025**

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
Videoconference  
2025-07-11 08:00 - 10:00 AKDT

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previously tabled

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# AK PT/OT Board - Scope of Practices Committee Mtg - June 6, 2025 Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

6/6/2025 8:00 AM AKDT

Videoconference

***These are DRAFT minutes prepared by staff of the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing. They have not been reviewed or approved by the Board.***

## 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Committee Members: Tori Daugherty and Jonathan Gates

The Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board Scope of Practices Committee meeting was called to order on Friday, June 6, 2025 at 8:01 am by Tori Daugherty.

Roll call taken:

Committee members present: Tori Daugherty and Jonathan Gates.

Staff present: Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner. Shane Bannarbie, Project Coordinator joined at 8:30 am.

Guest: Kristen Neville, Manager State Affairs, AOTA

## 2. Review/Approve Agenda

**Jonathan Gates motioned to accept the agenda for the June 6, 2025 Scope of Practices Committee meeting as written. Tori Daugherty seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.**

## 3. Approve Minutes - 12/20/2024 and 03/07/2025

**Jonathan Gates motioned to approve the minutes for the March 7, 2025 Scope of Practices Committee meeting as written. Tori Daugherty seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.**

December 20, 2024 minutes still outstanding. Staff to complete before July meeting.

## 4. Public Comment

No public comment given.

## 5. NEW Board Correspondence

### A. OT Scope Questions

OT Reevaluation Question - 05-25-2025 - Committee reviewed questions and discussed response. Initial Evaluation via telehealth? 08.02.130(a) discussed

along with 08.02.130(h) + (i). 12 AAC 54.825 is specific OT regulation for telerehabilitation but statute overrides regulation, if in conflict. Reimbursement issues are outside jurisdiction of the board.

**Action Item:**

Tori Daugherty to compose draft response to be loaded into OnBoard for full PHY Board review and approval.

OT Practices in Schools - 05-14-2025 - Committee reviewed question and discussed request for PHY Board position statement regarding licensure needed for practicing occupational therapy when working in schools.

*AS 08.84.150 License required; exceptions - only exemption from licensure when working in schools is in (6) employed as teacher or teacher's aid by an educational institution and is required to use occupational therapy skills during the course of employment, if*

*(A) the occupational therapy skills are used under a program implemented by the employer and developed by a licensed occupational therapist;*

*(B) the employer maintains direct supervision of the person's use of occupational therapy skills; and*

*(C) the person does not represent to*

*(i) be an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant; and*

*(ii) practice occupational therapy.*

Any occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant practicing occupational therapy is required to be licensed - AS 08.84.150 (b) A person may not provide services that the person describes as occupational therapy without being licensed under this chapter unless the person is (5) licensed under this title and uses occupational therapy skills in the practice of the profession for which the license is issued. A professional healthcare license issued by the Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy to practice is required in addition to the Type C Special Service Certificate issued by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

Decision to write specific response for this letter and second generic letter that would cover both physical therapy and occupational therapy.

**Action Item:**

Tori Daugherty to compose specific draft response to be loaded into OnBoard for full PHY Board review and approval. Generic letter draft to be reviewed and worked on at next committee meeting.

OT Professional Practices Requirement - Volunteer Hours Clarification - 4-30-2025 - 12 AAC 54.705 - Prior approval request under 12 AAC 54.705(b). Licensee has an active license in Alaska. Additional information needed for board to consider approval request.

**Action Item:**

- Staff to request a breakdown of 3 examples for each volunteering activity of how she will use OT therapy skill set when working with the specific clients.
- Tori Daugherty to draft response for full PHY Board review and approval through OnBoard when additional information is received.

**B. PT Scope Questions**

Request for Consideration of FCCPT CWT6 for PT Licensure - 05-20-2025 - Request is to use current CWT6 instead of CWT4 that was in effect at time of graduation. AS 08.84.032 Foreign-educated applicants and 12 AAC 54.040 and 12 AAC 54.110 do not specifically state which CWT to use.

*12 AAC 54.040(a) An applicant under this section must be a graduate from a school of physical therapy with a resident course of study and professional instruction that is (1) substantially equivalent to a professional physical therapy education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE);*

Interpretation - policy/procedure that PHY board utilizes Course Work Tool (CWT) in effective at the time of graduation. Committee discussed patient safety is addressed by meeting CWT6 as standards are higher with DPT requirement.

**Action Item:**

- Jonathan Gates to draft response for possible one-time exception so as not to set precedent as it does not impact public safety to be loaded into OnBoard for full PHY Board review and approval.
- Staff to add topic for discussion at next full board meeting to talk through possible modification of procedure for future applicants. Consider having FCCPT representative come present and answer questions.

DPT Student Supervision - 04-25-2025 - Billing related question - Jonathan Gates to draft response confirming reply sent by licensing examiner to be loaded into OnBoard for full PHY Board review and approval.

PTA Supervision - 04-01-2025 - Committee reviewed 12 AAC 54.590(6)(a)(b), 54.590(1), 12 AAC 54.530, AS 08.02.130(h) + (i), and AS 47.05.270 definition of telehealth.

**Action Item:**

Jonathan Gates to draft response as discussed to be loaded into OnBoard for full PHY Board review and approval.

Physical therapy - telemedicine - Active duty oversees - 03-19-2025 - telehealth provided to patient in a foreign country. Discussion possible situational exemptions - therapist is a military contractor. AK license only covers therapist while treating a patient in Alaska. If the patient is located outside of the state of Alaska, the Alaska State Board does not have jurisdiction.

**Action Item:**

Jonathan Gates to draft response for generic situation as discussed to be loaded into OnBoard for full PHY Board review and approval.

C. Generic

AK OT\_PT Employment Verification Forms - 03-18-2025 - Verification of Working Experience form completion. Committee briefly discussed. Question - are submitted verifications public? Correspondence to be added to agenda for next full board meeting for discussion.

OT\_PT - Skilled Nursing 01-21-2025 - Employment contract issue. No additional response required.

OT Professional Practice Requirement - 03-06-2025 - Licensing examiner informed committee members this board correspondence was resolved. No additional response required.

OT volunteering in Alaska for Health Fair - 01-23-2025 - temporary license required. Licensing Examiner response confirmed.

**Action Item:**

Staff to respond to correspondence that there is no further information to provide.

6. Legislative Initiatives

- A. PT Modernization Statutory Project  
No discussion
- B. OT Modernization Statutory Project  
No discussion
- C. DPT/OTD Term Protection Statutory DRAFT Language  
previously tabled  
No discussion

7. Next Steps

- 1. Confirm Jonathan Gates can attend July 11 at 8:00 am meeting date. If so, publicly notice meeting.
- 2. Staff to request additional information on OT Professional Practices Requirement - Volunteer Hours Clarification - 4-30-2025 and relay reply to Tori Daugherty when received.
- 3. Tori Daugherty to draft three (3) response as discussed and submit to staff to put on letterhead and load into OnBoard for full board review and approval.
- 4. Tori Daugherty to draft generic Board position statement for license required for physical therapist or occupational therapist practicing in the State of Alaska when working in a school district in addition to a Type C Special Service Certificate from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.
- 5. Staff to add topic for discussion at next full board meeting to talk through possible modification of procedure for future applicants. Consider having FCCPT representative come present and answer questions.
- 6. Jonathan Gates to draft three (3) response letters as discussed and submit to staff to put on letterhead and load into OnBoard for full board review and approval.
- 7. Add AK OT\_PT Employment Verification Forms – 03-18-2025 to October 2-3, 2025 board meeting for discussion.
- 8. Staff to respond to OT Volunteering in Alaska for Health Fair – 01-23-2025 that there is no further information to provide.

8. Adjourn

The Alaska Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Scope of Practices Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am on Friday, June 6, 2025.

Next virtual meeting to be scheduled for August 1 at 8:00 am. Potential additional meeting to be scheduled for July 11 at 8:00 am. Public notice to be sent once date confirmed with all committee members.

DRAFT



**From:** [Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**To:** [Froning, Katie E \(FCS\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: CPR and BLS certification requirement for licensed OTs  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 7:11:54 AM  
**Attachments:** [image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

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Hello Katie,

While Alaska Occupational Therapy statutes and regulations do not *specifically require* that you be CPR certified for licensure, regulation 12 AAC 54.800 Occupational Therapy Standards states you must adhere to the PT/OT Principles of Practice.

**12 AAC 54.800. OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY STANDARDS.** (a) In order to maintain a high standard of integrity in the profession and to safeguard the health and welfare of the public, occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants shall adhere to the *State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board Principles of Practice*, dated March 2015. The *State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board Principles of Practice* is adopted by reference.

(b) An occupational therapist may not supervise more than three aides, assistants, students, foreign-educated candidates, or permittees at the same time, in any combination.

<b>Authority:</b>	AS 08.84.010	AS 08.84.065	AS 08.84.150
	AS 08.84.030		

In the [Principles of Practice – March 2015](#) – Principle 6:1 Comply with professionally applicable institutional, local, state, federal and international laws and regulations. I would point you to federal (CMS) and any preferred provider insurance contracts you hold. Many typically require healthcare providers to maintain BLS for healthcare providers certification.

Please note: there is a reference to CPR in 12 AAC 54.710(f) Occupational Therapy Continuing Education Requirements that states CPR cannot be used as part of your required 24 contact hours of continuing education.

Records must be retained for three years from the date the contact hours were obtained.

- (f) The following activities will not be accepted for continuing education contact hours under this section:
- (1) routine staff meetings attended by the applicant;
  - (2) rounds conducted by the applicant;
  - (3) routine courses required for employment, including courses on cardiopulmonary resuscitation, first aid, and training related to Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirements.
- (g) The board reserves the right to require CPR certification as fulfilling the requirements of (c) and (b) of

Please let me know if you have further questions.

Best regards,



Sheri Ryan  
Licensing Examiner 3 Advanced  
Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy  
Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives  
Athletic Trainers Program  
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

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**From:** Froning, Katie E (FCS)

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 3:20 PM

**To:** Regulations and Public Comment (CED sponsored) <[regulationsandpubliccomment@alaska.gov](mailto:regulationsandpubliccomment@alaska.gov)>

**Subject:** CPR and BLS certification requirement for licensed OTs

Hello,

Is it required for an actively licensed OT in the state of Alaska to be CPR certified? I am unable to locate an answer or citation in the statutes.

Thank you,  
Kathryn Froning OTR/L

**From:** [Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**To:** [Angela Harter](#)  
**Subject:** RE: question regarding PTAs  
**Date:** Friday, June 20, 2025 7:38:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)

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Hello Angela,

I will submit your question to the Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy for clarification. Their next meeting is on October 2-3, 2025. When a response is available, it will be forwarded.

In the interim, here is the statute to provide some information. A “return-to-work screening” is an **evaluation** that may include a review of medical history, physical examination, and functional testing to assess the employee’s physical health. Typically, a return to work “screening” or fit-for-duty examination is billed under the CPT code 99455 which is an **evaluation** code. In Physical Therapy statute AS 08.84.190(6), the definition of a “physical therapist assistant” specifically prohibits a PTA from performing an evaluation. Only a Physical Therapist can perform a physical therapy evaluation on a patient in Alaska.

**Sec. 08.84.190. Definitions.** In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires,

- (1) “board” means the State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board;
- (2) “occupational therapist” means a person who practices occupational therapy;
- (3) “occupational therapy” means, for compensation, the use of purposeful activity, evaluation, treatment, and consultation with human beings whose ability to cope with the tasks of daily living are threatened with, or impaired by developmental deficits, learning disabilities, aging, poverty, cultural differences, physical injury or illness, or psychological and social disabilities to maximize independence, prevent disability, and maintain health; “occupational therapy” includes
  - (A) developing daily living, play, leisure, social, and developmental skills;
  - (B) facilitating perceptual-motor and sensory integrative functioning;
  - (C) enhancing functional performance, prevocational skills, and work capabilities using specifically designed exercises, therapeutic activities and measure, manual intervention, and appliances;
  - (D) design, fabrication, and application of splints or selective adaptive equipment;
  - (E) administering and interpreting standardized and nonstandardized assessments, including sensory, manual muscle, and range of motion assessments, necessary for planning effective treatment; and
  - (F) adapting environments for the disabled;
- (4) “occupational therapy assistant” means a person who assists in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of an occupational therapist;
- (5) “physical therapist” means a person who practices physical therapy;
- (6) “physical therapist assistant” means a person who assists in the practice of physical therapy or an aspect of physical therapy as initiated, supervised, and terminated by a licensed physical therapist; **the responsibilities of a physical therapist assistant do not include evaluation;**
- (7) “physical therapy” means the examination, treatment and instruction of human beings to detect, assess, prevent, correct, alleviate and limit physical disability, bodily malfunction, pain from injury, disease and other bodily or mental conditions and includes the administration, interpretation and evaluation of tests and measurements of bodily functions and structures; the planning, administration, evaluation and modification of treatment and instruction including the use of physical measures, activities and devices for preventive and therapeutic purposes; the provision of consultative, educational and other advisory services for the purpose of reducing the incidence and severity of physical disability, bodily malfunction and pain; “physical therapy” does not include the use of roentgen rays and radioactive materials for diagnosis and therapeutic purposes, the use of electricity for surgical purposes, and the diagnosis of disease.

Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Best regards,

Sheri Ryan  
Licensing Examiner 3 Advanced  
Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy  
Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives  
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**From:** Angela Harter

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 18, 2025 4:18 PM

**To:** Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy (CED sponsored) <[physicalandoccupationaltherapy@alaska.gov](mailto:physicalandoccupationaltherapy@alaska.gov)>

**Subject:** question regarding PTAs

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello there. I have a question about Return to Work screens. What parts of a physician ordered Return to Work screen can be completed by a PTA? I think by calling it a screen it can perhaps be a bit misleading. Does a Physical Therapist need to perform these instead? I have read through the statutes and regulations and it is not spelled out clearly that I can find.

Thank you for your time!

~Angela Harter, OTR/L

## OT Scope of Practice Modernization Work Group

### Revised NEW OT Scope of Practice DRAFT Language:

(2) “occupational therapist” means a person who practices occupational therapy; **An Occupational Therapist may evaluate, initiate, and provide occupational therapy treatment for a client without a referral from other health service providers.**

~~(3) “occupational therapy” means, for compensation, the use of purposeful activity, evaluation, treatment, and consultation with human beings whose ability to cope with the tasks of daily living are threatened with, or impaired by developmental deficits, learning disabilities, aging, poverty, cultural differences, physical injury or illness, or psychological and social disabilities to maximize independence, prevent disability, and maintain health; “occupational therapy” includes~~

- ~~(A) developing daily living, play, leisure, social, and developmental skills;~~
- ~~(B) facilitating perceptual-motor and sensory integrative functioning;~~
- ~~(C) enhancing functional performance, prevocational skills, and work capabilities using specifically designed exercises, therapeutic activities and measure, manual intervention, and appliances;~~
- ~~(D) design, fabrication, and application of splints or selective adaptive equipment;~~
- ~~(E) administering and interpreting standardized and nonstandardized assessments, including sensory, manual muscle, and range of motion assessments, necessary for planning effective treatment; and~~
- ~~(F) adapting environments for the disabled;~~

Replace (3) above with:

(3) “occupational therapy” means the therapeutic use of goal-directed life activities (occupations) with individuals, groups, or populations who have, or are at risk for injury, disorder, impairment, disability, activity limitation or participation restriction. Occupational therapists evaluate, analyze, and diagnose occupational challenges and provide interventions to support, improve, and/or restore function and engagement in meaningful tasks and activities. **This includes treating pain and/or physical, cognitive, psychological psychosocial,** sensory-perceptive, visual, and other aspects of performance in a variety of contexts to support and enhance engagement and participation in occupations that affect **health, well- being, and quality of life.** Occupational therapy services include but are not limited to:

- A. Evaluation, treatment and consultation to promote or enhance safety and performance in areas of activities of daily living (ADLs), instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs), health management, rest and sleep, education, work, play, leisure, and social participation;

## OT Scope of Practice Modernization Work Group

B. Administration, evaluation, and interpretation of tests and measurements of bodily functions and structures;

C. Establishment, remediation, compensation or prevention of barriers to performance skills including; client factors (body structures, body functions), performance patterns (habits, routines, roles), performance skills (physical, neuromusculoskeletal, cognitive, psychological, psychosocial, sensory- perceptive, communication and interaction, pain), and contexts (environmental, personal factors);

D. Management of feeding, eating, and swallowing to enable eating and feeding performance;

E. Design, fabrication, application, fitting, and training in seating and positioning; assistive technology; adaptive devices; orthotic devices; and training in the use of prosthetic devices;

F. Assessment, recommendation, and training in techniques to enhance functional and community mobility;

G. Application of adjunctive interventions and therapeutic procedures in preparation for or concurrently with occupation-based activities including but not limited:

- electrophysical agents
- thermal, mechanical, and instrument-assisted modalities
- wound care
- manual therapy; and

H. Provide therapeutic interventions to prevent pain and dysfunction, restore function and/or reverse the progression of pathology in order to enhance an individual's ability to execute tasks and to participate fully in life activities.

~~(4) "occupational therapy assistant" means a person who assists in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of an occupational therapist;~~

Replace above with:

(4) "occupational therapy assistant" means a person who provides occupational therapy services in collaboration with and under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist. An occupational therapist delegates to an occupational therapy assistant selective activities that are commensurate with the occupational therapy assistant's service competence. The occupational therapy assistant may contribute to the evaluation process by implementing the delegated assessments by providing verbal or written reports of assessments to the supervising occupational therapist.

Add new definition in 08.84.190 Definitions,

## OT Scope of Practice Modernization Work Group

(8) "tests and measurements" are the standard methods and techniques used to obtain data about the patient or client, including diagnostic imaging and electrodiagnostic and electrophysiological tests and measures.

Highlighted text:

yellow = Diagnostic Imaging

blue = Feeding, eating, and swallowing

red = Pelvic floor and Women's Health

green = Direct Access – this will not necessarily change the practice of private payers

teal = Cognitive Assessment

grey = Dry needling

pink = Mental health; "Psychological" primarily focuses on individual mental and emotional states, while "psychosocial" considers the interaction between an individual's psychological state and their social environment.

- **Psychosocial:** This term emphasizes the interconnectedness of individual psychological processes and social contexts. It considers how social factors, like culture, relationships, and community, influence an individual's psychological well-being and behavior. Psychosocial approaches often explore how social interactions, group dynamics, and environmental influences impact mental health and functioning. While psychological focuses on the individual's internal world, psychosocial acknowledges the broader context of social relationships and environmental influences on that internal world.

BOLD and Underlined = adding language to existing statutory language

Strikethrough = remove language from existing statutory language

## OT Scope of Practice Modernization Work Group

### Revised NEW OT Scope of Practice DRAFT Language:

(2) “occupational therapist” means a person who practices occupational therapy; **An Occupational Therapist may evaluate, initiate, and provide occupational therapy treatment for a client without a referral from other health service providers.**

~~(3) “occupational therapy” means, for compensation, the use of purposeful activity, evaluation, treatment, and consultation with human beings whose ability to cope with the tasks of daily living are threatened with, or impaired by developmental deficits, learning disabilities, aging, poverty, cultural differences, physical injury or illness, or psychological and social disabilities to maximize independence, prevent disability, and maintain health; “occupational therapy” includes~~

- ~~(A) developing daily living, play, leisure, social, and developmental skills;~~
- ~~(B) facilitating perceptual-motor and sensory integrative functioning;~~
- ~~(C) enhancing functional performance, prevocational skills, and work capabilities using specifically designed exercises, therapeutic activities and measure, manual intervention, and appliances;~~
- ~~(D) design, fabrication, and application of splints or selective adaptive equipment;~~
- ~~(E) administering and interpreting standardized and nonstandardized assessments, including sensory, manual muscle, and range of motion assessments, necessary for planning effective treatment; and~~
- ~~(F) adapting environments for the disabled;~~

Replace (3) above with:

(3) “occupational therapy” means the therapeutic use of goal-directed life activities (occupations) with individuals, groups, or populations who have, or are at risk for injury, disorder, impairment, disability, activity limitation or participation restriction. Occupational therapists evaluate, analyze, and diagnose occupational challenges and provide interventions to support, improve, and/or restore function and engagement in meaningful tasks and activities. This includes treating pain and/or physical, cognitive, psychosocial, sensory-perceptive, visual, and other aspects of performance in a variety of contexts to support and enhance engagement and participation in occupations that affect health, well-being, and quality of life. Occupational therapy services include but are not limited to:

- A. Evaluation, treatment and consultation to promote or enhance safety and performance in areas of activities of daily living (ADLs), instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs), health management, rest and sleep, education, work, play, leisure, and social participation;
- B. Administration, evaluation, and interpretation of tests and measurements of



## OT Scope of Practice Modernization Work Group

- bodily functions and structures;
- C. Establishment, remediation, compensation or prevention of barriers to performance skills including; client factors (body structures, body functions), performance patterns (habits, routines, roles), performance skills (physical, neuromusculoskeletal, cognitive, psychosocial, sensory-perceptive, communication and interaction, pain), and contexts (environmental, personal factors);
  - D. Management of feeding, eating, and swallowing to enable eating and feeding performance;
  - E. Design, fabrication, application, fitting, and training in seating and positioning; assistive technology; adaptive devices; orthotic devices; and training in the use of prosthetic devices;
  - F. Assessment, recommendation, and training in techniques to enhance functional and community mobility;
  - G. Application of adjunctive interventions and therapeutic procedures in preparation for or concurrently with occupation-based activities including but not limited:
    - electrophysical agents
    - thermal, mechanical, and instrument-assisted modalities
    - wound care
    - manual therapy; and
  - H. Provide therapeutic interventions to prevent pain and dysfunction, restore function and/or reverse the progression of pathology in order to enhance an individual's ability to execute tasks and to participate fully in life activities.

~~(4) "occupational therapy assistant" means a person who assists in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of an occupational therapist;~~

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Add new definition in 08.84.190 Definitions,

(8) "tests and measurements" are the standard methods and techniques used to obtain data

Accepted 06/30/2025

## OT Scope of Practice Modernization Work Group

about the patient or client, including diagnostic imaging and electrodiagnostic and electrophysiological tests and measures.

**BOLD and Underlined** = adding language to existing statutory language

~~Strikethrough~~ = remove language from existing statutory language

DRAFT