



AK PT Scope Modernization Work Group - November 19, 2025

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
Zoom
2025-11-19 11:00 - 13:00 AKST

Table of Contents

1. Call to Order.....3

Please update your Zoom to Name, City

Public Notice - PT Scope Modernization WG - 11-19-2025.pdf.....3

A. Roll Call.....4

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

PHY - PT Scope Workgroup Mtg - Agenda - 11-19-2025.pdf.....4

2. Public Comment

3. History.....7

Action Items from last Meeting on 11/12/25:

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

Resources:

Public testimony from SB47 (2019-2020)

- Alaska Board of Chiropractic Examiners
- Alaska Chiropractic Society

SB 47 Testimony Opposition State Bd of Chiropractic Examiners - Larson
2-11-2020.pdf.....7

SB 47 Public Testimony Alaska Chiropractic Society.pdf.....10

AK PT Scope Modernization Draft Language - draft 11-12-2025.docx.....12

4. Purpose and Summary of Workgroup - Review

A. PT Workgroup Objectives - original

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. Identify needs for change/improvement in the current scope of practice language - AS 08.84.190(7) Develop draft language to address any needs that the workgroup identifies. Address the role of PTAs in scope of practice language Develop an updated draft of scope of practice language with future action steps for recommendation to the PHY Board.

B. Objectives - Updated

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

5. Discussion - Draft Language

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

Wednesday, November 26 - 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

7. Next Steps

8. Adjourn

BOARD OF PHYSICAL AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY – PT SCOPE MODERNIZATION WORK GROUP MEETING

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING, HEREBY ANNOUNCES THE FORTHCOMING MEETING:

BOARD OF PHYSICAL AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY – PT SCOPE MODERNIZATION WORK GROUP MEETING. November 19, 2025. 11:00am. Teleconference/videoconference to conduct further research, gather additional stakeholder input and make recommendations on draft statutory language for physical therapy scope modernization to the board. Participants must register to attend. The Zoom link to attend is

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

For more information, visit:

www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/PhysicalTherapyOccupationalTherapy/BoardMeetingDatesAgency

Individuals or groups of people with disabilities who require special accommodations, auxiliary aids or service, or alternative communication formats, call the Director of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, (907) 465-2550, or TDD (907) 465-5437. Please provide advance notice in order for the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development to accommodate your needs.

Attachments, History, Details

Attachments

None

Revision History

Created 10/15/2025 8:28:56 AM by KLCAMPBELL

Details

Department:	Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
Category:	Boards and Commissions
Sub-Category:	Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board, State
Location(s):	Teleconference, Videoconference
Project/Regulation #:	
Publish Date:	10/15/2025
Archive Date:	11/20/2025
Events/Deadlines:	



AK PT Scope Modernization Work Group - November 19, 2025

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
Wednesday, November 19, 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

Action Items from last Meeting on 11/12/25:

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

Resources:

Public testimony from SB47 (2019-2020)

- Alaska Board of Chiropractic Examiners
- Alaska Chiropractic Society

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

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

12:40 PM

Wednesday, November 26 - 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

7. Next Steps

12:50 PM

8. Adjourn

1:00 PM

February 11, 2020

Honorable Cathy Giessel
Senate President
Alaska State Senate
Juneau, Alaska

SUBJECT: Opposition to Senate Bill 47, Sec. 11. AS 08.84.130(a): Including “Physiotherapist” as a synonym for Physical Therapist and Becoming Subject to Criminal Prosecution for use by any person other than a Licensed Physical Therapist in Alaska.

Senator Giessel:

The Alaska Board of Chiropractic Examiners (ABOCE) has just recently become aware of wording in Senate Bill 47, Sec. 11. AS 08.84.130(a), currently in committee with Senate Finance, where the term “Physiotherapist” is being proposed as a legal synonym for Physical Therapist and imposing criminal penalty on any individual or entity that utilizes this term to identify themselves or their practice but is not a licensed Physical Therapist. The ABOCE is opposed to this specific word being included in this Bill.

As currently proposed:

* **Sec. 11. AS 08.84.130(a)** is amended to read:

(a) A person not licensed as a physical therapist, or whose license is suspended or revoked [,] or has [WHOSE LICENSE IS] lapsed, who uses in connection with the person's name the words or letters "P.T.," "Physical Therapist," "Physiotherapist," "L.P.T.," [,] "Licensed Physical Therapist," or other letters, words, or insignia indicating or implying that the person is a licensed physical therapist, or who, in any way, orally [,] or in writing, directly or by implication, holds out as a licensed physical therapist, is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

We understand the likely intent of this proposal is to resolve an ongoing confusion at the international level of what physical therapists (American terminology) call themselves compared to physical rehabilitation specialists choosing the term of physiotherapists in England, Canada, Australia and other nations. Relatively speaking, these are synonymous terms. We can therefore reasonably state that any professional within the scope of their practice using physiotherapies is a physiotherapist.

Physiotherapy(ies) also is a term and practice used by other healthcare professions that are every bit as well-trained in the use and administration of physiotherapies as Physical Therapists, including medical and osteopathic physicians, nurses, athletic trainers, and chiropractic physicians. Psychiatrists (medical doctors specializing in physical rehabilitation and physiotherapies) and increasingly Chiropractic Physicians—because they have the privilege of

diagnosis-- often oversee rehabilitation facilities for large surgical centers, hospitals--even the U.S. Olympic Training Center health care is overseen by a chiropractic physician--overseeing the work of physical therapists, and various other health care professionals.

In order to maintain national accreditation, all chiropractic schools are required to teach principles and practices of physiotherapy in addition to anatomy, physiology, neurology, clinical diagnosis, etc. The National Board of Chiropractic Examiners oversees standardized national Board Exams as a prerequisite for licensure of chiropractic physicians in all states. In order to sit for the Physiotherapies board exam, which is required for licensure in Alaska, a chiropractic student must pass a minimum 120 hours of graduate training in physiotherapies [**physiological therapeutics—AS 08.20.900(12)**], as well as pass the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners Physiotherapy exam. As stated on the NBCE website “Physiotherapy assesses passive adjunctive procedures, including thermotherapy, electrotherapy, mechanotherapy, and `endurance training, muscle rehabilitation, neuromuscular rehabilitation, and disorder-specific rehabilitation.”

By definition, the word **physio** is a combining form representing the word physical or **physiological** in compound words, such as in physiotherapy. **Therapeutics** is the branch of medicine concerned with treatment of a disease and is synonymous with the word Therapy. Physiologic Therapeutics was the common vernacular at the end of the 18th century for the modern word **physiotherapy**.

Physiotherapies, or Physiologic Therapeutics is defined in Alaska Statute 08.20.900(12) as the therapeutic application of forces that induce a physiologic response and use or allow the natural processes of the body to return to a more normal state of health; physiological therapeutics encompasses the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the body, utilizing (A) manipulation; (B) the natural healing forces associated with air, cold, heat, electricity, exercise, light, massage, water, nutrition, sound, rest and posture; (C) thermotherapy, cryotherapy, high frequency currents, low frequency currents, interferential currents, hydrotherapy, exercise therapy, rehabilitative therapy, meridian therapy, vibratory therapy, traction and stretching, bracing and supports, trigger point therapy, and other forms of therapy.

Alaska Statute 08.84.190(6) is the Physical Therapy definition of “physical therapy.” No definition of **physiotherapy** is found in Alaska Statute 08.84 or Title 12 Alaska Administrative Code Sec. 54 in relation to physical therapy. In fact, the word physiotherapy(ies)(ist) is nowhere to be found in Alaska Law except for the rudimentary form in chiropractic statute, clearly outlining the practice of physiotherapy as a **Chiropractic term or practice**. I find it interesting that a profession without a single reference to the word wishes sole use and access to the term.

The definition of physiotherapy, or physiologic therapeutics, is an integral part of Chiropractic Core Methodology in Alaska. We even define the term in our statute. In addition to Examination, Diagnosis and Patient Education, Physiotherapy is as integral to chiropractic practice as to physical therapy practice. The first step of claiming exclusion to a process or procedure is claiming exclusion to its title.

It appears this amendment to AS 08.84.130(a) in Senate Bill 47 is a dangerous overstep by the Alaska Board of Physical and Occupational Therapists utilizing exclusionary wording to begin a process to exclusionary practice of physiotherapies in professional practice. Health care professionals of all disciplines utilize the same procedures, techniques, tests, devices, etc. for the optimal treatment of their respective patients. This is a blatant power grab in an ongoing Turf war.

The legal professional term Physical Therapist is recognized in Alaska as a unique profession of health care and entails the use of physical therapies as the methodology of practice. A Chiropractic Physician under the statutory definition, utilizes physiological therapeutics or physiotherapies as fundamental methodology in chiropractic practice.

In summary, the Alaska Board of Chiropractic Examiners is staunchly opposed to the inclusion of the title “Physiotherapist” as exclusive privilege of the physical therapy community and insists the term “physiotherapist” be removed from Senate Bill 47’s proposing re-write of AS 08.84.139(a).

Representing the Alaska Board of Chiropractic Examiners by Unanimous Motion on February 11, 2020.

Respectfully,

Brian E. Larson, Doctor of Chiropractic, DACBSP™
Chiropractic Sports Physician
Chair, Alaska Board of Chiropractic Examiners



Alaska Chiropractic Society

February 13, 2020

The Honorable Senator Cathy Giessel
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SB 47

Dear Senator Giessel,

The Alaska Chiropractic Society (ACS) applauds your efforts to update the statutes establishing physical therapists and physical therapy assistants in order to modernize their board, educational standards, and terminology through SB 47. However, our association is concerned about one provision in the bill - the addition of the title "*Physiotherapist*" for a physical therapist found in section 11 (see below).

ACS is concerned that granting the exclusive use of this title (with penalty) to physical therapists may translate to term protection of the word "physiotherapy". Term protection would prohibit all other healthcare providers from using the word "physiotherapy" to advertise services provided in their clinics/offices, much like how the AK Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy currently limits providers' use of the term "physical therapy" in advertising unless there is a licensed physical therapist on staff.

The CPT code set used to bill physical therapy services is not exclusive to any provider type. Many healthcare providers – ANP, DC, DO, LMT, MD, PA, PT – appropriately provide and bill for these type of services both within their state scopes of practice and insurance billing practices.

Doctors of Chiropractic must provide proof of board certification in physiotherapy to become licensed in Alaska and "physiotherapy" is an approved subject for continuing education under regulation. Because chiropractors, and others, already offer such treatment, granting exclusive use of the term "physiotherapy" will create conflict and confusion in the law that can reasonably be avoided.

We request that you amend the language in the bill to avoid such conflict. Specifically, we respectfully request that you either strike the term "Physiotherapist", or add language in section 11, or where appropriate, to clarify that healthcare providers who already provide physiotherapy, based on education and licensure, are not subject to the penalties established in Section 11 (a).

Senator Cathy Giessel
February 13, 2020
Page 2

28 * **Sec. 11.** AS 08.84.130(a) is amended to read:

29 (a) A person not licensed as a physical therapist, or whose license is
30 suspended or revoked [,] or **has** [WHOSE LICENSE IS] lapsed, who uses in
31 connection with the person's name the words or letters "**P.T.,**" "**Physical Therapist,**"
1 "**Physiotherapist,**" "**L.P.T.,**" [,] "Licensed Physical Therapist," or other letters,
2 words, or insignia indicating or implying that the person is a licensed physical
3 therapist, or who, in any way, orally [,] or in writing, directly or by implication, holds
4 out as a licensed physical therapist, is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

Again, we thank you for your efforts in SB 47, and recognize and appreciate your attention to a wide spectrum of health care issues as a state senator. I hope I have clearly explained our concerns. Please feel free to contact me, or our lobbyist in Juneau, Jeff Logan, if you have questions.

Sincerely,



Sheri Ryan | Chief Operating Officer
sryan@akchiro.org

CHAPTER 84.
PHYSICAL THERAPISTS AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

Article

1. State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board (§§ 08.84.010, 08.84.020)
2. Licensing (§§ 08.84.030 – 08.84.120)
3. Unlawful Acts (§§ 08.84.130 – 08.84.180)

ARTICLE 1.
STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BOARD

Section

01. Legislative Intent

10. Creation and membership of board
20. Applicability of Administrative Procedure Act

Sec. 08.84.001. Legislative Intent

This act is enacted for the purpose of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare, and provides for jurisdiction administrative control, supervision, licensure, and regulation of the practice of physical therapy and occupational therapy. It is the legislature's intent that only individuals who meet and maintain prescribed standards of competence and conduct may engage in the practice of physical therapy and occupational therapy as authorized by this act. This act shall be liberally construed to promote the public interest and to accomplish the purpose stated herein.

Sec. 08.84.120. Refusal, revocation, and suspension of license; discipline. (a) The board may refuse to license an applicant, may refuse to renew the license of a person, may discipline a person, and may suspend or revoke the license of a person who

- (1) has obtained or attempted to obtain a license by fraud or material misrepresentation;
- (2) uses drugs or alcohol in any manner that affects the person's ability to practice physical therapy or occupational therapy competently and safely;
- (3) has been convicted of a state or federal felony or other crime that effects the person's ability to practice competently and safely;
- (4) is guilty, in the judgement of the board, of gross negligence or malpractice or has engaged in conduct contrary to the recognized standards of ethics of the physical therapy profession or the occupational therapy profession;

- (5) has continued to practice physical therapy or occupational therapy after becoming unfit because of physical or mental disability;
- (6) has failed to refer a patient to another qualified professional when the patient's condition is beyond the training or ability of the person;
- (7) as a physical therapist assistant, has attempted to practice physical therapy that has not been initiated, supervised, and terminated by a licensed physical therapist;
- (8) as an occupational therapy assistant, has attempted to practice occupational therapy that has not been supervised by a licensed occupational therapist; or
- (9) has failed to comply with this chapter, a regulation adopted under this chapter, or an order of the board.

(10) Practicing or offering to practice beyond the scope of the practice of physical therapy.

(11) Acting in a manner inconsistent with generally accepted standards of physical therapy practice, regardless of whether actual injury to the patient is established.

- (b) The refusal or suspension of a license may be modified or rescinded if the person has been rehabilitated to the satisfaction of the board.
- (c) The board may not impose disciplinary sanctions on a licensee for the evaluation, diagnosis, or treatment of a person through audio, video, or data communications when physically separated from the person if the licensee

- (1) or another licensed health care provider is available to provide follow-up care;
- (2) requests that the person consent to sending a copy of all records of the encounter to a primary care provider if the licensee is not the person's primary care provider and, if the person consents, the licensee sends the records to the person's primary care provider; and
- (3) meets the requirements established by the board in regulation.

- (d) The board shall adopt regulations restricting the evaluation, diagnosis, supervision, and treatment of a person as authorized under (c) of this section by establishing standards of care, including standards for training, confidentiality, supervision, practice, and related issues.

AS 08.84.130 False claim of license prohibited. (a) A person not licensed as a physical therapist, or whose license is suspended or revoked, or has lapsed, who uses in connection with the person's name the words or letters "P.T.," "Physical Therapist," "L.P.T." "Licensed Physical Therapist," "Physiotherapist," or other letters, words, or insignia indicating or implying that the person is a licensed physical therapist, or who, in

any way, orally or in writing, directly or by implication, holds out as a licensed physical therapist, is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

ARTICLE 5. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section

190. Definitions

200. Short title

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.

(2) **"Competence" is the application of knowledge, skills, and behaviors required to function effectively, safely, ethically and legally within the context of the patient/client's role and environment.**

(3) **"Consultation" means a physical therapist seeking assistance from, or rendering professional or expert opinion or advice to, another physical therapist or professional healthcare provider via electronic communications, telehealth, or in-person.**

(4) **"Continuing competence" is the lifelong process of maintaining and documenting competence through ongoing self-assessment, development, and implementation of a personal learning plan, and subsequent reassessment.**

(5) **"Electronic Communications" means the science and technology of communication (the process of exchanging information) over any distance by electronic transmission of impulses including activities that involve using electronic communications to store, organize, send, retrieve, and/or convey information.**

(6) **"Nexus to practice" means the criminal act of the applicant or licensee posing a risk to the public's welfare and safety relative to the practice of physical therapy.**

(7) **"Patient/client" means any individual receiving physical therapy from a licensee, permit, or compact privilege holder under this Act.**

(8) **"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.**

(9) **"Physical therapist" means a person who is a licensed healthcare practitioner pursuant to this act to practice physical therapy. The terms "physiotherapist" or "physio" shall be synonymous with "physical therapist" pursuant to this act. A Physical Therapist may evaluate, initiate, and provide physical therapy treatment for a client as the first point of contact without a referral from other health service providers.**

Commented [SR1]: AS 08.84.032(a) (3) to be eligible for licensure - Foreign-educated applicants must pass an examination recognized by the board that measures the competence of the applicant in the English language if the applicant's physical therapist or physical therapist assistant education program was not taught in English;

AS 08.84.032(b)(3) to be eligible for licensure Foreign-educated applicants must pass an examination recognized by the board that measures the competence of the applicant in the English language if the applicant's occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant education program was not taught in English;

AS 08.84.100(c) Renewal of license - A license

Commented [SR2]: Existing that is being removed - AS 08.84.190 Definitions (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...

Commented [SR3]: AS 08.84.188 Section 2 Definitions - (5) "Continuing competence" means a requirement, as a condition of license renewal, to provide evidence of participation in, and/or completion of, educational and professional activities relevant to practice or area of work.

Section 3 - State Participation in the Compact

Commented [SR4]: Not utilized in existing statute or new draft statutory language

Commented [SR5]: Utilized in draft definition for competence (2); physical therapy (11e); draft definition for testing (13).

Patient utilized numerous times in existing statutes
AS 08.84.120(6) Refusal, revocation, and suspension of license; discipline

Commented [SR6]: Remove reference to "physiotherapist" or "physio" in this section and instead go for TITLE protection in AS 08.84.130(a). Term protection is a very broad concept. "Title" protection would clarify for the consumer that only a Physical Therapist or Physiotherapist can provide physical therapy. It is highly doubtful that any other profession

(10) **“Physical therapy” means the care and services provided in-person or via telehealth by or under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist who is licensed pursuant to this act. The term “physiotherapy” shall be synonymous with “physical therapy” pursuant to this act.**

(11) **“Practice of physical therapy” means:**

a. Examining, evaluating, and testing patients/clients with mechanical, physiological and developmental impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities or other health and movement-related conditions in order to determine a diagnosis, prognosis and plan of treatment intervention, and to assess the ongoing effects of intervention.

b. Alleviating impairments, pain, functional limitations and disabilities; promoting health; and preventing disease by designing, implementing and modifying treatment interventions that may include, but not limited to: therapeutic exercise; needle insertion; patient-related instruction; therapeutic massage; airway clearance techniques; integumentary protection and repair techniques; debridement and wound care; physical agents or modalities; mechanical and electrotherapeutic modalities; manual therapy including soft tissue and joint mobilization/manipulation; functional training related to movement and mobility in self-care and in home, community or work integration or reintegration; as well as prescription application and, as appropriate, fabrication of assistive, adaptive, orthotic, prosthetic, protective and supportive devices and equipment.

c. Reducing the risk of injury, impairment, functional limitation, and disability, including performance of participation-focused physical examinations and the promotion and maintenance of fitness, health, and wellness in populations of all ages.

d. Serving as primary care providers for patients and clients experiencing healthcare concerns.

e. Referring a patient/client to healthcare providers and facilities for services and testing to inform the physical therapist plan of care.

f. Engaging in administration, consultation, education, and research.

(12) **“Telehealth” is the use of electronic communications to provide and deliver a host of health-related information and healthcare services, including, but not limited to physical therapy related information and services, over large and small distances. Telehealth encompasses a variety of healthcare and health promotion activities, including, but not limited to, education, advice, reminders, interventions, and monitoring of interventions.**

Commented [SR7]: Language modification per AKOTA and AOTA concerns

- (13) **“Testing” means standard methods and techniques used to gather data about the patient/client, including but not limited to imaging, electrodiagnostic and electrophysiologic tests and measures.**

(Will need to incorporate new occupational therapy definitions in alphabetical order under AS 08.84.190)

DRAFT

Work Group Recommendations for associated Regulations Project:

***Telehealth:**

Omit phrase from 12 AAC 54.530(a).

Change Telerehabilitation to Telehealth - 12 AAC 54.530. (regulation project) and omit wording limiting to "geographic constraints or health and safety constraints." See Centralized Statute 08.02.130

(a) The purpose of this section is to establish standards for the practice of ~~telerehabilitation~~ **telehealth** by means of [an interactive telecommunication system] by a physical therapist licensed under AS 08.84 and this chapter in order to provide physical therapy to patients who are located in this state. ~~and do not have access to a physical therapist in person due to geographic constraints or health and safety constraints.~~

DRAFT