

SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF MARYLAND LICENSED CHIROPRACTORS REGARDING PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES

This letter is available to all MD Licensed Chiropractors in the event that your status or scope to perform and bill for physical therapy services is questioned or denied by insurance carriers, underwriters, healthcare practitioners or any other entity.

Pursuant to the explicit provisions of the MD Chiropractic Act (MD Code Ann., Health Occupations Article, Section 3-101(e), Maryland Licensed Chiropractors are fully authorized to practice physical therapy without restriction. Additionally, section 3-301(c) of that Article provides further clarification by defining that:

*“Practice of physical therapy permitted – A chiropractor who holds
A license to practice chiropractic with the right to practice physical
Therapy may practice chiropractic and physical therapy in this state”.*

Section 3-102(g) of that Article specifically defines “*practice physical therapy*” as that definition stated in section 13-101 of the Article (i.e., the Physical Therapy Practice Act). In other words, the law clearly and succinctly provides that chiropractors may fully and freely practice physical therapy to the same extent and scope as that practiced by licensed physical therapists. Historically, Maryland licensed chiropractors held the right to practice physical therapy years before a Physical Therapy Board even existed. The right to practice physical therapy has consistently been held by the chiropractic profession and has never been diminished or curtailed by state statute or regulation. Licensees holding a “*PT Privileges*” designation have had many didactic and clinical hours of physical therapy and have passed a comprehensive physical therapy examination of the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

Any attempt to interpret the aforementioned statutory provisions in a manner to deny or diminish physical therapy privileges for chiropractors is inconsistent with the spirit and intent of the law enacted by the MD General Assembly. It is this Board’s long-standing position (supported by the Maryland Office of Attorney General) that the aforementioned rights and privileges regarding physical therapy must be fully recognized by healthcare practitioners, insurers and underwriters. To do otherwise is to unlawfully restrict and jeopardize the right of Maryland licensees to fully and freely practice their profession and may constitute an unlawful restraint of trade.

J. J. Vallone, J.D., CFE
Executive Director
By direction of the Board

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