



Direct Access to Physical Therapy

Many people are not aware but as of October 1, 2006, a Direct Access to physical therapy bill was passed into law in Connecticut. Direct access to physical therapy allows you to be evaluated and treated by a licensed physical therapist without having to wait to receive a referral/prescription from your physician. If payment is approved by your insurance company, direct access allows you to save time and immediately begin the physical therapy treatment that you need.

Currently 47 states, including Connecticut, allow patients the choice to seek physical therapy treatment without a physician's referral.

This law is not meant to deter you from seeing a Doctor, but allows you to receive immediate physical therapy care.

Physical therapists are highly qualified and receive extensive education and clinical training in the examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, and intervention of patients with functional limitations, impairments and disabilities. Physical therapists are trained to recognize "red flags" or when a patient presents with signs and symptoms inconsistent or outside the scope and expertise of the physical therapist and when the patient should be referred to a physician.

All of the therapists here at Greenwood qualify for direct access according to the APTA's direct access to physical therapy laws updated May 2012:

1. Earned a bachelor's degree and has practiced physical therapy for at least four out of the most recent six years or earned a master's degree or higher.
2. Must refer any person receiving such treatment to an appropriate licensed practitioner of the healing arts if, upon examination or re-examination, the same condition for which the person sought physical therapy does not demonstrate objective, measurable, functional improvement in a period of thirty consecutive days or at the end of six visits, whichever is earlier.
3. Grade V spinal manipulation, such treatment shall only be performed upon the referral or by a licensed physical therapist who (i) earned a bachelor's degree prior to January 1, 1998, and has practiced physical therapy for at least four out of the most recent six years of his or her clinical practice, or earned a master's degree or higher in physical therapy from an accredited institution of higher education, and (ii) holds a specialist certification in orthopedic physical therapy from the American Physical Therapy Association, or proof of completion of forty hours of course work in manual therapy, including Grade V spinal manipulation.
4. Prohibits diagnosis of disease.

If you would like to learn more about direct access or feel that direct access would benefit you, stop by or call our office at any time to speak with our staff!