

HB 2553 by Rep. Lynn Stucky

Expansion of Direct Access

A Patient's Rights Bill

- In 2019 Direct Access for Patients to see a Physical Therapist without a referral from another healthcare provider was enacted into law.
- That legislation allows for patients to see their Physical Therapist for either 10 or 15 days without a referral, depending on credentialing levels of the Physical Therapist.

Saves Patients Time and Money

- HB 2553., as substituted, will expand that timeframe to 30 days to allow many patients to complete their course of treatment.
- This legislation greatly reduces the burden of the patient to have to seek out another provider to allow them to continue the treatment they need.
- It also saves them a great deal of time and money because they do not have to schedule an office visit and meet the co-pay of another provider.

There Are No Health or Safety Risks

- Currently 21 states and the District of Columbia allow 30 days of Direct Access.
- An additional 20 states allow unfettered Direct Access with no set time limit at all.
- Texas is one of only 9 states limiting Direct Access to less than 30 days.
- Physical Therapists refer patients with issues that physical therapy alone cannot remedy to the appropriate physicians for proper diagnoses.
- According to the leading provider of liability coverage for physical therapy, AON, there is no increase in risk for Direct Access.
- There has not been a single complaint to the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners about a Physical Therapist related to Direct Access since the law took effect in September of 2019. Nor has there been any legislation filed in any of the 41 states that allow more lenient Direct Access to roll back that time frame because of patient safety concerns. Physical therapy is a safe, cost-effective choice for patients.

Common Sense Legislation that Reduces Cost for Patients and Results in Better Outcomes!