

§ 486.150

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Subpart D—Conditions for Coverage: Outpatient Physical Therapy Services Furnished by Physical Therapists in Independent Practice

are licensed or registered in accordance with applicable laws.

[41 FR 20865, May 21, 1976, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 42 FR 52826, Sept. 30, 1977. Redesignated and amended at 60 FR 2326, 2329, Jan. 9, 1995]

§ 486.150 Condition for coverage: General requirements.

§ 486.155 Condition for coverage: Plan of care.

In order to be covered under Medicare as a supplier of outpatient physical therapy services, a physical therapist in independent practice must meet the following requirements:

For each patient, a written plan of care is established and periodically reviewed by the individual who established it.

(a) Be licensed in the State in which he or she practices.

(a) *Standard: Medical history and prior treatment.* The physical therapist obtains the following information before or at the time of initiation of treatment:

(b) Meet one of the personnel qualifications specified in § 485.705(b).

(1) The patient's significant past history.

(c) Furnish services under the circumstances described in § 410.60 of this chapter.

(2) Diagnosis(es), if established.

(d) Meet the requirements of this subpart.

(3) Physician's orders, if any.

[60 FR 2329, Jan. 9, 1995]

(4) Rehabilitation goals and potential for their achievement.

§ 486.151 Condition for coverage: Supervision.

The services are furnished by or under the direct supervision of a qualified physical therapist in independent practice.

(5) Contraindications, if any.

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(6) The extent to which the patient is aware of the diagnosis(es) and prognosis.

§ 486.153 Condition for coverage: Compliance with Federal, State, and local laws.

The physical therapist in independent practice and staff, if any, are in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

(7) If appropriate, the summary of treatment provided and results achieved during previous periods of physical therapy services or institutionalization.

(a) *Standard: Licensure of facility.* In any State in which State or applicable local law provides for the licensing of the facility of a physical therapist, such facility is:

(b) *Standard: Plan of care.* (1) For each patient there is a written plan of care that is established by the physician or by the physical therapist who furnishes the services.

(1) Licensed pursuant to such law; or
(2) If not subject to licensure, is approved (by the agency of such State or locality responsible for licensing) as meeting the standards established for such licensing.

(2) The plan indicates anticipated goals and specifies for physical therapy services the—

(b) *Standard: Licensure or registration of personnel.* The physical therapist in independent practice and staff, if any,

- (i) Type;
- (ii) Amount;
- (iii) Frequency; and
- (iv) Duration.

(3) The plan of care and results of treatment are reviewed by the physician or by the therapist at least as often as the patient's condition requires, and the indicated action is taken.

(4) Changes in the plan of care are noted in the clinical record. If the patient has an attending physician, the therapist who furnishes the services promptly notifies him or her of any change in the patient's condition or in the plan of care. (For Medicare patients, the plan must be reviewed by a

physician in accordance with § 410.61(e).)

[54 FR 38679, Sept. 20, 1989. Redesignated and amended at 60 FR 2326, 2329, Jan. 9, 1995]

§ 486.157 Condition for coverage: Physical therapy services.

The physical therapist in independent practice provides an adequate program of physical therapy services and has the facilities and equipment necessary to carry out the services offered.

(a) *Standard: Adequate program.* The physical therapist will be considered to have an adequate physical therapy program when services can be provided, utilizing therapeutic exercise and the modalities of heat, cold, water, and electricity; patient evaluations are conducted; and tests and measurements of strength, balance, endurance, range of motion, and activities of daily living are administered.

(b) *Standard: Supervision of physical therapy services.* Physical therapy services are provided by, or under the supervision of, a qualified physical therapist.

[41 FR 20865, May 21, 1976, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 42 FR 52826, Sept. 30, 1977. Redesignated and amended at 60 FR 2326, 2329, Jan. 9, 1995]

§ 486.159 Condition for coverage: Coordination of services with other organizations, agencies, or individuals.

The physical therapist coordinates her physical therapy services with the health and medical services the patient receives from organizations or agencies or other individual practitioners through exchange of information that meets the following standard:

If a patient is receiving or has recently received, from other sources, services related to the physical therapy program, the physical therapist exchanges pertinent documented information with those other sources—

(a) On a regular basis;

(b) Subject to the requirements for protection of the confidentiality of medical records, as set forth in § 485.721 of this chapter; and

(c) With the aim of ensuring that the services effectively complement one another.

[60 FR 2329, Jan. 9, 1995]

§ 486.161 Condition for coverage: Clinical records.

The physical therapist in independent practice maintains clinical records on all patients in accordance with accepted professional standards and practices. The clinical records are completely and accurately documented, readily accessible, and systematically organized to facilitate retrieving and compiling information.

(a) *Standard: Protection of clinical record information.* Clinical-record information is recognized as confidential and is safeguarded against loss, destruction, or unauthorized use. Written procedures govern use and removal of records and include conditions for release of information. A patient's written consent is required for release of information not authorized by law.

(b) *Standard: Content.* The clinical record contains sufficient information to identify the patient clearly, to justify the diagnosis(es) and treatment, and to document the results accurately. All clinical records contain the following general categories of data:

(1) Documented evidence of the assessment of the needs of the patient, of an appropriate plan of care, and of the care and services provided,

(2) Identification data and consent forms,

(3) Medical history,

(4) Report of physical examination(s), if any,

(5) Observations and progress notes,

(6) Reports of treatments and clinical findings, and

(7) Discharge summary including final diagnosis(es) and prognosis.

(c) *Standard: Completion of records and centralization of reports.* Current clinical records and those of discharged patients are completed promptly. All clinical information pertaining to a patient is centralized in the patient's clinical record.

(d) *Standard: Retention and preservation.* Clinical records are retained for a period of time not less than: