

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HEALTH SYSTEMS AND PREPAREDNESS ADMINISTRATION**

BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
AUTHORITY FOR GUIDANCE

December 11, 2024
DATE OF POLICY

24-002
POLICY NO.

POLICY STATEMENT

**SUPERVISION OF PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS – MODIFICATION OF
REQUIREMENT FROM DIRECT SUPERVISION TO GENERAL SUPERVISION**

The Board of Physical Therapy recognizes that there is a limited number of Physical Therapist Assistants licensed in the District and working in the District. Given the Board’s commitment to its mission of protecting the public with the provision of adequate physical therapy services being a part thereof – the Board has considered and voted to implement the following policy regarding supervision of Physical Therapist Assistants. In observance of the national trend away from the more stringent requirement of on-site supervision, and in accordance with the growth of the Physical Therapist Assistant’s curriculum and independent licensing requirements, the Board has determined that a Physical Therapist Assistant may perform physical therapy functions under the **general** supervision of a Physical Therapist, rather than the requirement of direct supervision. **General supervision** is comprised of supervision whereby the supervisor may be located on the premises but **may also be engaged in supervision via a synchronous, real-time communication device for the duration of the time that the supervisee is practicing**. Thus, *the Board now issues this new policy statement, Policy Statement No. 24-002, suspending the requirement for Physical Therapist Assistants to work under direct supervision pursuant to 17 DCMR 6712.2* and offers this guidance related to the supervision of Physical Therapist Assistants until such time as the relevant, referenced regulation can be updated. Thus, the Board issues this guidance indicating that the Physical Therapist Assistants who are licensed in the District can work under the **general** supervision of a Physical Therapist licensed in the District.

All inquiries pertaining to the practice of physical therapy may be directed to the Board’s Health Licensing Specialist, at dcbopt@dc.gov