

Table 6. State regulations of PTA supervision, by region (page 1 of 2)

CMS region/state	Supervision term used in the state regulation	Level of Supervision						Maximum PTA:PT ratio	Frequency of required PT re-evaluation	PTA must be licensed ²	PTA CE requirements (CE units / year)	PT CE requirements ³ (CE units / year)
		Full-time on-site	Periodic in-room	Periodic on-site	Telecommunication ¹	PT within specified distance	Supervision level not specified					
Boston												
Connecticut	N/S				X					X		
Maine	N/S				X			2:1	Every 10 visits or 30 days	X		
Massachusetts	N/S		X "Physical presence, regularly scheduled"		*				Acute care: every 7-10 days; SNF/Outpatient/HHA: every 30 days	X		
New Hampshire	"Adequate"				X				Every 2 weeks; HHA/nursing home: monthly	X	1.00 / 1	1.50 / 1
Rhode Island	"On-site"			X Every 4-6 visits or 30 days	*					X		
Vermont	N/S			X "Regular frequency"	*			3:1*	Every 5 visits or 30 days. Weekly if daily treatment	X		
New York												
New Jersey	"Direct"	X						2:1		X		
New York ⁴	"On-site"	X						4:1		X		
Philadelphia												
Delaware	"Direct"	X PTAs with < 1 yr. experience	X Every 5 visits or 3 weeks		*			2:1		X	3.00 / 2	3.00 / 2
District of Columbia	"Direct"	X		X Every 10 visits or 60 days	*			3:1*				4.00 / 2
Maryland	"Periodic, on-site"			X Every 10 visits or 60 days	*			2:1		X	2.00 / 2	3.00 / 2
Pennsylvania	"Direct on-premises"	X						2:1		X		
Virginia	"General"				X				Every 12 visits or 30 days; hospitals: weekly	X		
West Virginia ⁴	N/S	X	X "Periodic"					2:1*		X	1.00 / 1	1.00 / 1
Atlanta												
Alabama	N/S					X		4:1		X	0.60 / 1	1.00 / 1
Florida	"General"			X For acute patients and hospital inpatients	*	X "In same geographic location"				X	2.40 / 2	2.4 / 2
Georgia	"Adequate"			X 50% of work time	*				"Periodic"; HHA: every 6 visits.	X	1.80 / 2	1.80 / 2
Kentucky	N/S				X			4:1*	Inpatient/CORF: every 14 days	X		
Mississippi	"Direct on-site"		X At "regular" intervals		*			2:1	Every 6 visits or 14 days	X	2.40 / 2	2.40 / 2
North Carolina	N/S				X				Every 30 days	X		
South Carolina	N/S				X				Every 8 visits or 60 days	X		
Tennessee	N/S		X Every 60 days		*	X 60 miles or 1 hour		3:1	Every 30 days	X		
Chicago												
Illinois	"Periodic personal"		X "Periodic"		*					X		
Indiana	"Direct"				X daily			3:1 if daily consultation is not face-to-face	Every 15 visits or 30 days ; Hospital/CORF: Every 14 days	X		
Michigan	N/S						X					
Minnesota	N/S			X Every 6 visits	*			2:1				2.00 / 1
Ohio	N/S				X				"Periodic"	X	1.20 / 2	2.40 / 2
Wisconsin	"General"		X Every 14 days		*			2:1	Every 10 visits or 30 days			

Table 6. State regulations of PTA supervision, by region (page 2 of 2)

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		Full-time on-site	Periodic in-room	Periodic on-site	Telecommunication ¹	PT within specified distance	Supervision level not specified					
Dallas												
Arkansas	N/S						X			X	1.00 / 1	2.00 / 1
Louisiana	"Periodic"			X 50% of work time	*	25 miles or 30 minutes		3:1*	Every 6 visits; HHA: Every 6 visits or 30 days	X	1.20 / 1	1.20 / 1
New Mexico	N/S				X	X 100 miles		2:1	Every 30 days	X	2.00 / 1	2.00 / 1
Oklahoma	"General"			X "Regularly"	*			3:1		X	2.00 / 1	2.00 / 1
Texas	N/S				X					X	2.00 / 2	3.00 / 2
Kansas City												
Iowa ⁵	N/S				X			2:1		X	2.00 / 2	4.00 / 2
Kansas	"Adequate"			X Weekly	*			4:1	"Periodic"	X	2.00 / 2	4.00 / 2
Missouri	N/S				X			4:1	Every 30 days (when not on-site supervision)	X	3.00 / 1	3.00 / 1
Nebraska	"On-site"	X For certain tasks		X Every 15 visits or 7 days for specified tasks (eg, therapeutic exercise, range of motion)				2:1	Conduct during periodic on-site visit	X		
Denver												
Colorado	"Responsible direction"						X	3:1*				
Montana	N/S			X Every 6 visits or 14 days	*			2:1		X	2.00 / 1	2.00 / 1
North Dakota ⁴	"On-site"	X						2:1*		X	0.25 / 1	0.25 / 1
South Dakota	N/S			X Every 5 visits or 30 days	*			2:1	Conduct during periodic on-site visit	X		
Utah	"General"			X Every 6 visits or 30 days	*							
Wyoming	N/S			X Every 31 days	*			3:1	Conduct during periodic on-site visit	X		
San Francisco												
Arizona	"On-site"	X						3:1*		X		2.00 / 2
California	"Adequate"			X "Periodic"	*			2:1	"As determined during initial evaluation"	X		
Hawaii	"Direct"	X										
Nevada	"Direct"				X			2:1	Every 6 visits or 14 days	X	1.50 / 1	1.50 / 1
Seattle												
Alaska	"Periodic on-site"			X Every 2 weeks	*			3:1		X	2.40 / 1	2.40 / 1
Idaho	"Indirect"				X			2:1	Every 5 visits; weekly if daily treatment	X		
Oregon	N/S						X		"Periodic"	X		
Washington	"Indirect"				X			2:1*	Every 5 visits; weekly if daily treatment			4.00 / 2

Note:

PT is physical therapist; PTA is physical therapist assistant; CE is continuing education; SNF is skilled nursing facility; CORF is comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility; HHA is home health agency; N/S is not specified.

*In these states, supervision ratios include aides, students, and other assistive personnel.

¹In the telecommunication column, "X" indicates solely a "telecommunication" supervision requirement; " * " indicates telecommunication supervision when not periodically on site or in room.

²Column indicates states that require PTA licensure, approval, certification, or registration. All states require PTs to be licensed.

³Communication with Massachusetts and Tennessee state boards indicates that these states are developing PT and/or PTA CE requirements.

⁴In three states (ND, MY, WV) with full-time on-site supervision, regulations allow telecommunication supervision in the home health and long-term care settings.

⁵Iowa limits PTAs to treating patients no more than 4 visits or 9 days.

Source: Urban Institute analysis of 2001 state regulations of physical therapy and 1999 Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy state survey of continuing education requirements.