

# HB 29 Signed By Governor

On June 14, 2019, Governor Greg Abbott signed HB 29 which has an **effective date of September 1, 2019.**

HB 29 amends provisions of Section 453.301, Occupations Code (PT Practice Act) that includes **treatment without a referral for not more than ten (10) consecutive business days** for a physical therapist (PT) who possesses a **doctoral degree in physical therapy** or who has completed a **minimum of thirty (30) continuing competence activities in the area of differential diagnosis.**

Additionally, a PT with a doctoral degree in physical therapy who has completed a **residency or fellowship** can **treat for not more than fifteen (15) consecutive business days without a referral.**

Stipulations on treatment without a referral are the PT must have been **licensed to practice physical therapy for at least one (1) year** and must be covered by **professional liability insurance.** Before treatment can exceed the authorized number of days, a referral must be obtained from a qualified healthcare practitioner.

A PT, regardless of entry-level degree, who has been licensed to practice for at least one (1) year will **no longer be authorized to treat an established patient under a prior referral for thirty (30) days or twenty (20) visits effective September 1, 2019.**

**Current provisions in the PT Practice Act/Rules regarding referral remain in effect until September 1, 2019.**

A PT who treats without a referral must obtain a **signed disclosure from the patient beginning November 1, 2019.** A disclosure form will be available on the PT Board's website, [www.ptot.texas.gov](http://www.ptot.texas.gov), at that time.

**The Rules & Practice Committee of the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (PT Board) will meet in July to discuss and recommend amendments to PT Rules §322.1. (a)** in order to clarify and implement the provisions of HB 29. The full **PT Board will then vote to propose the amendments.** Any amendments that are proposed will not be in effect until final adoption by the PT Board.

**Please hold all of your questions until after the PT Board has met. Updates will be disseminated via the email list and will be posted on the website at [www.ptot.texas.gov](http://www.ptot.texas.gov).**

Following is a timeline for the implementation of HB 29.

## HB 29 – Amendment to Section 453.301, Occupations Code

June 14, 2019

### HB 29 Signed into law by Governor Abbott

---

- Effective date of amendment to PT Practice Act Section 453.301 - September 1, 2019.
- Current provisions in PT Practice Act/Rules regarding referral still in effect until September 1, 2019.

July 18, 2019

### TBPTE Rules & Practice Committee Meeting

---

- Agenda item - Discussion and possible action on amending PT Rules §322.1.(a) pursuant to HB 29 amendments to Sec. 453.301, Occupations Code during the 86th Legislative Session.

July 19, 2019

### TX Board of Physical Therapy Examiners Meeting

---

- Recommendation from Rules & Practice Committee to propose amendment to PT Rules §322.1. (a) to implement provisions of HB 29.
- Proposed Rules amendment to be published in upcoming edition of Texas Register for public comment. (Date TBA)

September 1, 2019

### Amendment to PT Practice Act becomes effective

---

- PT with doctoral degree in physical therapy can treat a patient for 10 consecutive business days without a referral.
- PT who has completed at least 30 hrs. of continuing competence activities in differential diagnosis can treat a patient for 10 consecutive business days without a referral.
- PT with doctoral degree in physical therapy who has completed a residency or fellowship can treat a patient for 15 consecutive business days.
- All of the above must have been licensed to practice for at least one year and be covered by professional liability insurance.
- Treatment exceeding authorized number of days must have referral.
- PT can no longer treat an established patient under a prior referral for 30 days or 20 visits.
- Provisions in proposed Rules amendment not in effect until final adoption.

October 11, 2019

### TX Board of Physical Therapy Examiners Meeting

---

- Final adoption of amendment to PT Rules §322.1.(a).
- Adopted Rules amendment to be published in upcoming edition of Texas Register. (Date TBA)

November 1, 2019

### PT Rules Amendment Becomes Effective.

---

- All provisions of adopted Rules amendment become effective including amount of professional liability insurance coverage and signed disclosure requirements.
- Disclosure form available on Board's website at [www.ptot.texas.gov](http://www.ptot.texas.gov).