



State of Louisiana  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS  
**Louisiana Physical Therapy Board**  
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## **MEDICATION REVIEW**

A physical therapy patient who is taking medication prescribed by a physician or other health care provider who is authorized to prescribe for the patient should receive education related to the purpose of the medication, its side effects, and the interactions with other medications from the person prescribing the medication as well as the pharmacist filling the prescription. Instructions on medication dosage and frequency should be clearly printed on the bottle or other medication container. In addition, it is within the scope of practice for a physical therapist to perform the following 3 actions for a review of medications prescribed by a physician or other licensed health care provider.

1. *Review and document a list of medications taken by a physical therapy patient.*
2. *Educate the patient on side effects, medication interactions, medication purposes as prescribed.*
3. *Instruct the patient on dosage/frequency as prescribed.*

These functions are within the scope of physical therapy practice when a physical therapist is providing instruction and consultation incidental to the delivery of physical therapy services. It is also necessary for the public health, safety, and welfare that a physical therapist as part of the health care team and responsible for managing all aspects of physical therapy care for each patient appropriately perform medication review when necessary.

In a home health setting, the following activities fall into a broad category of patient assistance functions which could be performed by a variety of healthcare providers, including physical therapist, as well as responsible family members and friends:

1. *Assist in filling the patient's medication planner;*
2. *Call the pharmacy or doctor to request a refill for an empty bottle;*
3. *Take medications from bottles or planners and hand to patient per their medication schedule; and*
4. *Handle the medication bottles each visit to ensure medications have been filled, taken, and no changes have occurred since the last visit.*

However, these services, which may be provided by a physical therapist at a home health visit, are not required as part of the physical therapist's "scope of practice."

Physical therapists performing such patient assistance functions may unwittingly expose themselves to potential liability for negligently performing such functions or failure to perform them once they have established a pattern of providing the services. In addition, handling a patient's medications places the physical therapist at risk when the patient is taking narcotics or other CDS medications and medications are missing or otherwise unaccounted for.