

NEVADA PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD
SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT
Pursuant to 233(b)

The Nevada Physical Therapy Board will be making changes to the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) that govern the use of physical therapist technicians.

Although the law makes it clear that agencies shall use readily available information and existing resources to prepare the impact statement, this Board took measures to seek information. In 2017, the Board solicited input via survey from licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants, in an effort to assess the impact of proposed changes. Survey results included the responses of 485 physical therapists and 132 physical therapy assistants. Notable responses from physical therapists included the following: (1) 35% of respondents stated they supervise one person during a typical workday; (2) 46% of respondents stated that the person they supervise the most to assist in patient care are physical therapy technicians; (3) 30% of respondents stated the person they supervise the second most to assist with patient care are physical therapy technicians; (4) 100% of physical therapist respondents indicated that they had no concerns to changes being made to NAC governing the use of physical therapist technicians.

Under NAC 640.594, a physical therapist may supervise a combined total of three persons at the same time. These people may consist of a physical therapist assistant, student of physical therapy, graduate of physical therapy and/or a physical therapist technician. However, supervision of an unlicensed person requires that a physical therapist be physically present and immediately available on the premises when any procedure or activities of physical therapy are performed by that person. In accordance with NAC 640.595, the Board considers any aide or other unlicensed person who performs treatments related to physical therapy which have been directed by a physical therapist, regardless of their title or designation, to be a physical therapist technician. Further, NAC 640.596 prohibits physical therapist assistants from supervising physical therapist technicians in the performance of a treatment related to physical therapy.

The Board is proposing NAC changes to clarify and further define the physical therapist technician position, requirements for supervision, and permissible activities, for the purpose of regulating the use of physical therapist technicians in a physical therapist practice.

The remainder of the proposed regulations deal with the practice of physical therapy, general provisions, licensing, practice before the Board, continuing competence, standards of conduct, and disciplinary action. There are no monetary costs associated with the remainder of the proposed regulations.

QUESTION 1 – Does this proposed regulation impose a direct and significant economic burden upon a small business? ANSWER – No.

QUESTION 2 – Does this proposed regulation restrict the formation, operation or expansion of a small business? ANSWER – No.

Therefore, it is the opinion of this Board that the addition of the proposed amendments will not impact small business or impact the creation of a small business.

 Sherise Smith, PT, MSPT, CBIS
Chairman

2/21/18
Date