FAQ

**Q) How does this change affect Athletic Trainers?**

A) For all ATs practicing in compliance with the AT practice act ([Public Act 166 of 2015](http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-368-1978-15-179.)), the change in the PT general rules will not apply.

**Q) Is it still possible for an AT to practice in the physical therapy setting?**

A) Yes. Our best advice to ATs practicing in the state of Michigan at this time is to ensure that you are in compliance with the AT practice act and that you are working “under the direction of, on the prescription of, or in collaboration with an individual licensed under part 170 or 175.” An individual licensed under part 170 or 175 includes a physician (M.D. or D.O.) who is licensed to engage in the practice of medicine or the practice of osteopathic medicine and surgery. ATs are not subject to oversight by a physical therapist. However, it is also important to note that the practice of athletic training does not include the practice of physical therapy. A physician prescription should indicate “rehabilitation” to be in compliance with the AT practice act.

**Q) If a Physical Therapist co-signs my notes, will this change be relevant?**

A) If the AT is not practicing under the rules stated above, then that individual is not practicing Athletic Training. This means they no longer have a scope of practice and would be relegated to technician status.

**Q) I practice in the secondary school outreach setting and am required to perform hours in the clinic as well. Will I be able to continue treating in this manner?**

A) Yes, as long as the AT is following the practice act requirements listed above.

**Q) My institution practices under a model approved by the medical director (MD/DO), is this sufficient?**

A) Yes, so long as the medical director is licensed as an MD/DO in the state of Michigan.

**Q) What would a prescription need to read in order for me to continue treating patients as an AT?**

A) The prescription would need to read: 1) AT services, 2) Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, or 3) Rehabilitation and NOT physical therapy. A plan of care signed and approved by an MD/DO licensed in the state of Michigan that specifically lists that rehabilitation may be provided by an AT would also qualify.

**Q) What would happen if I continue to practice in the physical therapy setting without making the recommended changes?**

A) The AT that is practicing outside the scope of their practice is not practicing as an AT, and thus has no scope of practice and cannot present themselves as an AT. If that individual continues to present themselves as an AT and is not practicing AT according to the practice act then they could be reported to LARA similar to others that have presented themselves as an, but is unlicensed.