

## Michigan Department of Community Health

**Bulletin Number:** MSA 11-40

**Distribution:** Outpatient Hospitals, Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities, Practitioners, School Based Services, Home Health, Medical Suppliers

**Issued:** September 1, 2011

**Subject:** Licensure Requirements for Occupational Therapists (OTs), Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs), and Physical Therapy Assistants (PTAs)

**Effective:** As Indicated

**Programs Affected:** Medicaid, Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS)

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform providers of policy updates to comply with changes in the Public Health Code, which requires OTs, OTAs, and PTAs to be licensed by the State of Michigan. The Standards of Coverage and Service Limitations Section of the Outpatient Therapy Chapter of the Medicaid Provider Manual will be revised to reflect these changes.

### Licensure Requirements for OTs and OTAs

Public Act 523 of 2008, effective January 13, 2009, required OTs and OTAs to be licensed by the State of Michigan. This Public Act amended part 183 of the Public Health Code (Occupational Therapists) to provide for the licensure of OTs and OTAs rather than the previously required registration of a certified OT or OTA.

This Act defines an OT as "an individual licensed under this article to engage in the practice of occupational therapy," and an OTA as "an individual licensed under this article to engage in practice as an occupational therapy assistant."

Further information regarding OT and OTA licensure can be found on the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs website at [www.michigan.gov/lara](http://www.michigan.gov/lara) >> Health Systems & Health Profession >> Licensing for Health Care Professionals >> Occupational Therapy.

### Licensure Requirements for PTAs

Public Act 55 of 2009, effective June 25, 2009, required PTAs to be licensed by the State of Michigan. This Public Act amended part 178 of the Public Health Code (Physical Therapy) to provide for license of PTAs. Previously, certified PTAs were not regulated by the State of Michigan.

This Act defines a PTA as "an individual with a health profession subfield license under this part who assists a physical therapist in physical therapy intervention."

Further information regarding PTA licensure can be found on the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs website at [www.michigan.gov/lara](http://www.michigan.gov/lara) >> Health Systems & Health Profession >> Licensing for Health Care Professionals >> Physical Therapy.

### **Public Comment**

The public comment portion of the policy promulgation process is being conducted concurrently with the implementation of the change noted in this bulletin. Any interested party wishing to comment on the change may do so by submitting comments in writing to:

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Comments received will be considered for revisions to the bulletin.

### **Manual Maintenance**

Retain this bulletin until applicable information has been incorporated into the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual.

### **Questions**

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, Department of Community Health, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231, or e-mail at [ProviderSupport@michigan.gov](mailto:ProviderSupport@michigan.gov). When you submit an e-mail, be sure to include your name, affiliation, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Providers may phone toll-free 1-800-292-2550.

### **Approved**



Stephen Fitton, Director  
Medical Services Administration