

# STATE OF COLORADO

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**STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

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April 28, 2005

Kevin Heupel, Program Director  
Physical Therapy Licensure  
1560 Broadway, Suite 1340  
Denver, CO 80202

RE: Supervision of Physical Therapists

Dear Mr. Heupel:

Thank you for attending the Colorado Board of Medical Examiners April 14, 2005 meeting to discuss the Board's position with regard to the supervision and delegation requirements applicable to physical therapists who work with licensed physicians.

As was discussed at the meeting, it is the position of the Board of Medical Examiners that a physical therapist who is providing services within the scope of a physical therapist license is not subject to delegation or supervision by a licensed physician. In other words, if a physical therapist is providing services authorized by his or her own license, the Medical Board does not require or expect that the physical therapist will be supervised by a Colorado licensed physician. Certainly, if a physician is delegating medical services beyond the scope of a physical therapist's license, then the requirements of Medical Board Rule 800 would apply. Finally, if a physical therapist engages in substandard care relating to the practice of physical therapy, it is the Medical Board's position that this is a matter that should be addressed by your office because the physical therapist is responsible for providing physical therapy services that meet the accepted standards of practice.

I hope the foregoing is helpful and clarifies the Medical Board's position regarding these issues. If I can be of any further assistance or if you need additional clarification, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

FOR THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Susan Miller  
Program Director

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