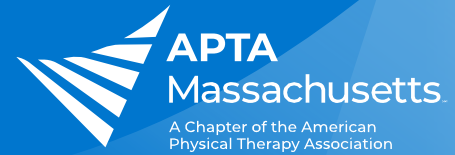


S.215, An Act Relative to Physical Therapy



APTA Massachusetts strongly supports S.215, "An Act Relative to Physical Therapy."

This legislation modernizes and clarifies the scope of physical therapy practice to reflect the breadth and depth of current PT education. By explicitly recognizing diagnostic imaging, electrodiagnostic testing, and durable medical equipment (DME) prescription within the practice of physical therapy, this bill enhances access to essential healthcare services, reduces delays in patient care, and improves overall healthcare efficiency.

With significant shortages in primary care practitioners and challenges accessing healthcare services, it is imperative to facilitate opportunities to streamline pathways to appropriate care in order to decrease overall demand on the system. Allowing PT's to practice to the extent of their entry-level education and order imaging and DME, as necessary, is a key step in reaching those goals.

The APTA MA is a non-profit professional association, representing over 2,800 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and students in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



Why Pass S. 215

Improves Patient Access: Reducing barriers to essential diagnostic services and durable medical equipment enables timely and effective treatment.

Enhances Efficiency and Reduces Cost: Allowing physical therapists to order and interpret diagnostic tests, reduces the need for unnecessary referrals and specialist visits.

Aligns Massachusetts with National Best Practices: The updated definition ensures that Massachusetts remains competitive in healthcare innovation and aligns with advancements recognized in other states.

We urge Senators to co-sponsor S.215 to enhance patient access to these critical services and improve healthcare in the Commonwealth.