

Texas Patients Will Benefit from Direct Access to Physical Therapy

SAFER TREATMENT - BETTER OUTCOMES

A study by *Health Services Research*¹ of patients with low back pain (released May 2018) found that patients who saw a physical therapist at the first point of care had:

- An 89% lower probability of having an opioid prescription as compared to patients who either did not see a PT or saw one later.
- A 28% lower probability of having any advanced imaging services.
- A 15% lower chance of having an emergency department visit.
- Significantly lower out-of-pocket costs.

REPLACES AN OUTDATED SYSTEM

- Texas is one of only two states that does not allow patients Direct Access to physical therapy, forcing patients to pay out-of-pocket for unnecessary visits to the doctor.
- The majority of physician referrals to physical therapy do not include a diagnosis by a doctor. Physicians trust PTs, who are licensed professionals with doctoral degrees, to properly evaluate and treat patients.
- According to the leading provider of professional liability coverage for the physical therapy profession, AON, there is no increase in risk in a state with Direct Access.

PRIMARY BENEFICIARIES OF DIRECT ACCESS ARE TEXANS IN NEED OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Primary Opponents of Direct Access - Orthopedic Surgeons and Other Doctors Who Want ALL Patients to be Forced Into Unnecessary Office Visits Before Receiving Needed Treatment

Physicians and medical associations will argue that they are concerned about patient safety, but they will not be able to show any increase in risk in any of the states, or the US Military, that have Direct Access. This argument is about economics, not safety. Is Texas going to do what is best for Texas patients, both in terms of health outcomes and out-of-pocket costs, or is Texas going to continue to look out for the economic interests of MDs?



TEXAS
PHYSICAL THERAPY
ASSOCIATION

89% ↓

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¹<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/1475-6773.12984>