

Board of Physical Therapy
Supervision of unlicensed support personnel in any setting

If a Physical Therapist is asked to provide a plan of care and sign off on care provided to patients by unlicensed support personnel (regardless of the title of such personnel) in any setting, then the PT is fully responsible for the actions of the unlicensed support personnel performing PT tasks. The tasks assigned must be under the direct supervision of the PT/PTA, meaning he or she is physically present and immediately available. The tasks assigned must be non-discretionary and can not require the exercise of professional judgment. If the tasks assigned in the plan of care are to be carried out in such a manner or at a location in which direct supervision from the PT/PTA is not possible, then the PT who developed the plan of care and signed off on the plan of care may be in violation of the regulations governing the practice of physical therapy, specifically 18VAC112-20-10 and 18VAC112-20-100.