

Virginia Board of Physical Therapy

Supervision of Students in the Clinical Setting

The Board's regulation, 18VAC112-20-100(D), provides the following regarding the supervision of students in the clinical setting:

D. A physical therapist shall provide direct supervision to a student in an approved program who is satisfying clinical educational requirements in physical therapy. A physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant shall provide direct supervision to a student in an approved program for physical therapist assistants.

In interpreting this provision, the Board recommends that an individual practitioner not supervise more than three students at any one time in a clinical setting.

Further, the Board refers to the definition of "direct supervision" in 18VAC112-20-10:

"Direct supervision" means a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant is physically present and immediately available and is fully responsible for the physical therapy tasks or activities being performed.