

State Government Affairs Committee Report for Fall Conference/Business Meeting 2021

Submitted by: Kadeen Mansor, PT, SGAC Chair

We were instrumental in getting the Governor's comprehensive telehealth bill (HB2454) passed this year, expanding telehealth access to physical therapists and their patients. Going into next legislative session, we hope to address a number of issues in concert with the AZ Board of Physical Therapy.

1. Changing the regulatory designation of physical therapists from "PT" to "DPT" to create a uniform and unified brand for the profession as we push for greater permissions under our scope of practice.
 - a. Possible Board run statute change during sunset review process
 - b. Helpful in establishing that PTs are primary care practitioners
2. Pushing for medical imaging rights, specifically the ability to order radiographs for appropriate patients without physician oversight.
 - a. Model after North Dakota legislation
 - b. Coordinate with our statute as well as ARS 30-672 (G)
3. Lobby AHCCCS for a \$1.2M budget specifically for exceptional medical cases that would benefit from therapy beyond the 15/15 visit cap currently in place.
 - a. Create an exception case policy for therapists to apply for additional visits

We have also discussed the ongoing issue with Class IV laser use and conflicting ideas regarding PTs use without physician oversight. We have tabled the discussion on return to sport decisions in regards to concussion management for youth athletes.

Going forward, I would like to expand the discussion on these issues (or any others that you feel passionate about) via the Tradewing platform under the SGAC tab. Aptaaz.tradewing.com

Save the Date: PT Day at the Capital should be an in-person event on Jan 19th, 2022