



HB 2439

Physical Therapist Assistant Student Supervision Issue Paper

- Passage of the 2007 Physical Therapist Assistant licensure bill inadvertently prohibits a licensed PTA from supervising a PTA student.
 - This was an oversight that needs a correction.
 - As the law reads now, only physical therapists may supervise PTA students on clinical affiliations.
- HB 2439 adds language to restore the licensed PTA as a direct supervisor of a PTA student while under the PT's oversight and direction.
- There are not enough PTs to meet the demands of PTA students in their clinical affiliation sites.
- PTA students are competing with PT students for the same pool of PT clinical instructors.
 - This is problematic throughout the state of Washington.
 - There are three PT schools and six PTA schools in Washington.
- The accreditation authority, CAPTE, expects the PTA to assume the role of teacher and clinical instructor to PTA students.
- Medicare allows PTA supervision of PTA students.
- Prior to passage of the 2007 PTA licensure bill, PTAs traditionally posed as direct supervisors of PTA students, while under the PT's oversight.