

STATE OF NEW YORK

5663

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 15, 2021

Introduced by Sen. KENNEDY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law and the insurance law, in relation to allowing patients up to twelve visits with an occupational therapist without a referral from a physician, nurse practitioner or other health care provider

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 7901 of the education law, as amended by chapter
2 460 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

3 § 7901. Definition. 1. The practice of the profession of occupational
4 therapy is defined as the functional evaluation of the client, the plan-
5 ning and utilization of a program of purposeful activities, the develop-
6 ment and utilization of a treatment program, and/or consultation with
7 the client, family, caregiver or organization in order to restore,
8 develop or maintain adaptive skills, and/or performance abilities
9 designed to achieve maximal physical, cognitive and mental functioning
10 of the client associated with his or her activities of daily living and
11 daily life tasks. A treatment program designed to restore function,
12 shall be rendered on the prescription or referral of a physician, nurse
13 practitioner or other health care provider acting within his or her
14 scope of practice pursuant to this title, except as provided for in
15 subdivision two of this section. However, nothing contained in this
16 article shall be construed to permit any licensee hereunder to practice
17 medicine or psychology, including psychotherapy or to otherwise expand
18 such licensee's scope of practice beyond what is authorized by this
19 chapter.

20 2. Treatment may be rendered by a licensed occupational therapist for
21 twelve visits without a referral from a physician, nurse practitioner or
22 other health care provider provided that:

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD01911-01-1

1 (a) the licensed occupational therapist has practiced occupational
2 therapy on a full time basis equivalent to not less than three years;
3 and

4 (b) each occupational therapist licensed pursuant to this article
5 shall provide written notice to each patient receiving treatment absent
6 a referral from a physician, nurse practitioner or other health care
7 provider that occupational therapy may not be covered by the patient's
8 health care plan or insurer without such a referral and that such treat-
9 ment may be a covered expense if rendered pursuant to a referral. The
10 occupational therapist shall keep on file with the patient's records a
11 form attesting to the patient's notice of such advice. Such form shall
12 be in duplicate, with one copy to be retained by the patient, signed and
13 dated by both the occupational therapist and the patient in such form as
14 prescribed pursuant to regulations promulgated by the commissioner.

15 § 2. Paragraph 1 of subsection (a) of section 5102 of the insurance
16 law, as amended by chapter 298 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read
17 as follows:

18 (1) All necessary expenses incurred for: (i) medical, hospital
19 (including services rendered in compliance with article forty-one of the
20 public health law, whether or not such services are rendered directly by
21 a hospital), surgical, nursing, dental, ambulance, x-ray, prescription
22 drug and prosthetic services; (ii) psychiatric, physical therapy
23 (provided that treatment is rendered pursuant to a referral) and occupa-
24 tional therapy and rehabilitation (provided that treatment is rendered
25 pursuant to a referral); (iii) any non-medical remedial care and treat-
26 ment rendered in accordance with a religious method of healing recog-
27 nized by the laws of this state; and (iv) any other professional health
28 services; all without limitation as to time, provided that within one
29 year after the date of the accident causing the injury it is ascertainable
30 that further expenses may be incurred as a result of the injury. For
31 the purpose of determining basic economic loss, the expenses incurred
32 under this paragraph shall be in accordance with the limitations of
33 section five thousand one hundred eight of this article.

34 § 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after
35 it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amend-
36 ment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implemen-
37 tation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and
38 completed on or before such effective date.