

CHAPTER 9

Physical Therapy

I. POLICY

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) shall provide inmate-patients access to physical therapy services based on medical necessity.

II. PURPOSE

To improve a potentially reversible condition or to prevent worsening of a current clinical condition.

III. PROCEDURE

1. The Primary Care Provider (PCP) shall complete a CDCR Form 7221, Physician's Order, and a CDCR Form 7243 Request for Services, for a physical therapy consultation. A physical therapy consultation shall include medical diagnosis and appropriate precautions when (1) medically necessary, consistent with Title 15, Section 3350.1 and (2) in accordance with the Utilization Management Program.
2. Physical therapy services shall be ordered and scheduled on an urgent or routine basis and shall be tracked as indicated in Volume 4, Chapter 8, *Specialty Services*.
3. If physical therapy services are not available on-site or via contract with a community physical therapy service, the inmate-patient shall be referred for transfer on a "med and return" basis to an institution that can provide the physical therapy services.
4. The physical therapist shall assess the inmate-patient and document the treatment plan and the treatment provided on a CDCR Form 7230, Interdisciplinary Progress Note (for physical therapy provided on-site) and on a CDCR Form 7243, Request for Services (for physical therapy provided off-site).
5. The PCP shall prescribe the timing, frequency, and duration of the physical therapy based on the recommendations of the Physical Therapist or on standardized guidelines.
6. Upon completion of the prescribed course of treatment, the treating therapist shall document on a CDCR Form 7243 or CDCR Form 7230 a discharge summary including the following information: treatments performed, frequency of treatments, progress toward goal(s), functional status, and inmate-patient education provided.
7. The PCP shall re-evaluate the inmate-patient upon completion of the prescribed course of physical therapy and make a decision regarding disposition.