



North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

Manual Traction by a PTA

Question

The NC Board of PT Examiners received a question from a licensee asking if PTAs can perform manual lumbar spine traction using a mobilization belt as part of their scope of practice.

NC Board of PT Examiners Response

From: Kathy Arney <karney@ncptboard.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:38 AM
To: 'E Windsor' <ewindsor@synergypnc.com>
Cc: Deborah J. Ragan <dragan@ncptboard.org>; Kathy Arney <karney@ncptboard.org>
Subject: RE: NC PTA Scope of Practice

Ms. Windsor,

At its meeting on December 9, 2020, the Board considered your question regarding PTA performance of manual lumbar traction of the spine using a mobilization belt. The standard for making this determination is contained in Board Rule 48C .0101 (a) Permitted Practice, which states, "Physical therapy is presumed to include any acts, test, procedures, modalities, treatments, or interventions that are **routinely** taught in educational programs, **or** in continuing education programs for physical therapists and are **routinely** performed in practice settings." After review of the information available on this topic and discussion by the Board, the Board determined that that the standards of Board Rule 48C .0101 (a) are not met at this time at this time. Therefore, the use of manual lumbar traction is not currently within the scope of practice for the PTA in North Carolina.

If new or additional information is provided to the Board regarding where this is taught in entry-level or continuing education and is routinely practiced by physical therapists, it will review the new information and make a determination. Please contact me if we can provide additional information or clarification.

Kathy

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