PTA Direction Algorithm
(See Controlling Assumptions)

Physical therapist (PT) completes physical therapy patient/client examination and evaluation, establishing the physical therapy diagnosis, prognosis, and plan of care.

Are there interventions within the plan of care that are within the scope of work of a PTA?

No → PT provides patient/client intervention for interventions that are not within the scope of work of the PTA, including all interventions requiring ongoing evaluation.

Yes ↓

Is the patient/client's condition sufficiently stable to direct the intervention to a PTA?

No → PT provides patient/client intervention and determines when/if the patient/client health conditions have stabilized sufficiently to direct selected interventions to a PTA.

Yes ↓

Are the intervention outcomes sufficiently predictable to direct the intervention to a PTA?

No → PT provides patient/client intervention and determines when/if the prognostic conditions have changed sufficiently to direct selected interventions to a PTA.

Yes ↓

Given the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the PTA, is the intervention within the personal scope of work of the individual PTA?

No → PT provides patient/client intervention; assesses the limits of the PTA's personal scope of work, identifies areas for PTA development, and assists the PTA in obtaining relevant development opportunities.

Yes ↓

Given the practice setting, have all associated risks and liabilities been identified and managed?

No → PT provides patient/client intervention and identifies solutions for unmanaged risk and liabilities.

Yes ↓

Given the practice setting, have all associated payer requirements related to physical therapy services provided by a PTA been managed?

No → PT provides patient/client intervention when payer requirements do not permit skilled physical therapy services to be provided by a PTA.

Yes →

Direct intervention to the PTA while:
- Maintaining responsibility and control of patient/client management;
- Providing direction and supervision of the PTA in accordance with applicable laws and regulations; and
- Conducting periodic re-assessment/re-evaluation of the patient as directed by the facility, federal and state regulations, and payers.