DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING REFERRALS

What Virginia physical therapists need to know

Proposed Board Guidance | Public Comment Open Through October 21, 2026

APTA Virginia

KEY TAKEAWAY

The Virginia Board of Physical Therapy says current Virginia law does not prohibit a licensed physical therapist from referring a patient to an appropriate practitioner for diagnostic imaging studies.

1 Why is the Board issuing this guidance?

APTA Virginia wrote to the Board asking it to share its opinion regarding the ability of a Virginia licensed physical therapist to refer patients for diagnostic imaging studies based on the existing Code.

2 What did the Board say?

> *"the Board opines that there are no provisions that would prohibit a Virginia licensed physical therapist from referring a patient to an appropriate practitioner for diagnostic imaging studies."*

3 What does this mean for practice today?

For now, continue referring patients to other healthcare professionals through established pathways when you believe further examination and evaluation is warranted. Because the guidance is new and there is no corresponding legislation:

- A radiology group may not accept referrals from physical therapists for imaging studies.
- Insurance companies may not cover costs associated with imaging studies originating from a physical therapist referral.

4 What is APTA Virginia doing next?

APTA Virginia will continue exploring the best next steps, including:

- Reviewing legislation implemented in other states to identify possible legislation that advances the profession of physical therapy in Virginia and improves the health of Virginia citizens.
- Meeting with APTA, interested parties in Virginia, and others to determine the best next steps.
- Determining when legislation may be introduced and what that legislation might include.

5 What should members watch for?

Stay informed and watch for future APTA Virginia calls to action. Members may be asked to share example cases, delays in referral and imaging, and other experiences that can help APTA Virginia understand existing problems as legislative solutions are explored.

WHAT CAN YOU DO AS A MEMBER?

COMMENT

Review the Board's opinion and share your thoughts with the Board of Physical Therapy during the open comment period, which ends October 21, 2026.

SPREAD THE WORD

Spread the word by sharing this information with colleagues and others who should know about it.

DONATE TO PAC

Donate to the PAC. We'll need funds when we introduce legislation on this matter or anything else that serves the public, patients, and our profession.

STAY ENGAGED

Stay informed. Watch for calls to action and be ready to share example cases or delays in referral and imaging.

TAKE ACTION

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSES OCTOBER 21

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