

Physical Therapy in Home Care

BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

**Decision of the Board on
August 20, 2004**

Physical Therapy services in home health:

The Board reviewed a letter regarding use of aides to provide therapy services in a home health setting. The Board cited 18 VAC 112-20-100 (A&B) and emphasized the physical therapist's and physical therapist assistant's responsibilities in providing services. The regulation cites the requirement for direct supervision of support personnel by the licensed professionals. Also, the Board referred the inquirer to the definition of direct supervision in 18 VAC 112-20-10 and the responsibilities of patients in 18 VAC 112-20-120 of the regulations.

The Board also reviewed a letter asking whether the scope of practice of physical therapy changes in a home setting environment. The Board cited Code § 54.1-3473, defining the "practice of physical therapy;" the definition of practice does not change or alter with different practice settings.