

**The Fine Points of Supervision In Arizona
(On-site and General)**

On-site Supervision

[Link to Arizona Revised Statutes \(A.R.S.\)-Click Here](#)

[Link to Arizona Administrative Code \(A.A.C.; Rules\)- Click Here](#)

Physical Therapists	Physical Therapist Assistants
You must be licensed. (See A.A.C. R4-24-101(35))	You must be certified to work as a PTA. (See A.R.S. 32-2042)
You are responsible for all patient care provided by assistive personnel. You may delegate supervised selected acts, tasks or procedures that do not exceed the assistive personnel's education or training. (See A.R.S. 32-2043)	You must receive your instruction of delegation from the supervising physical therapist on each treatment date, which is based on the patient's acuity and treatment plan. (See A.R.S. 32-2043 and A.A.C. R4-24-303(B))
You may supervise PT and PTA students in accredited programs, interim permit holders, physical therapist assistants, physical therapy aides and other assistive personnel. Graduates not yet licensed must work under on site supervision. (See A.R.S. 32-2001(1) and A.R.S. 32-2043)	Your supervising physical therapist will, at times, rely on you to help them establish patient acuity before they can delegate the procedures of that day's intervention.
You must verify the qualifications of assistive personnel. (See A.R.S. 32-2043 and A.A.C. R4-24-303(B))	You must document the intervention provided in accordance with A.A.C. R4-24-303 .
You must ensure that the delivery of the acts you have determined to delegate will be provided safely, effectively, and efficiently. You are responsible for accurate documentation and billing. (See A.R.S. 32-2043)	You must not exceed your delegated activities. You are a certified individual and cannot work beyond your delegated authority. (See A.R.S. 32-2044(5))
You must delegate intervention procedures on each date based on each patient's acuity and treatment plan. (See A.R.S. 32-2043 and A.A.C. R4-24-303(B))	
You must document the clinical rationale for utilizing assistive personnel. (See A.R.S. 32-2043(H) and Substantive Policy Statement 2006-02)	
You must do the initial evaluation, reevaluation, and discharge summary for each patient. (See A.R.S. 32-2043 and A.A.C. R4-24-303)	
You must perform all interventions that require the expertise of a physical therapist. (See A.R.S. 32-2043(H) and A.A.C. R4-24-303(B))	
You may not supervise more than three assistive personnel. If you are supervising the maximum three one must be a certified PTA. Assistive personnel include PT and PTA students, interim permit holders, PTA's, physical therapy aides, and other healthcare providers working under your supervision.	
You must co-sign all documentation completed by assistive personnel other than PTA's. (See A.R.S. 32-2043(I) and A.A.C. R4-24-304(A.4))	
You must ensure that the person that provides the intervention activity documents the intervention activity, signs their name and legal designation. (See A.R.S. 32-2043(J) and A.A.C. R4-24-304(C))	

General Supervision

[Link to Arizona Revised Statutes \(A.R.S.\)-Click Here](#)

[Link to Arizona Administrative Code \(A.A.C.; Rules\)- Click Here](#)

Physical Therapists	Physical Therapist Assistants
You must be licensed. (See A.A.C. R4-24-303(F))	You must be certified. (See A.R.S. 32-2043 and A.A.C. R4-24-303(D))
You are still responsible for all aspects of supervision listed under on-site supervision. (See the Physical Therapist Column under Onsite Supervision)	You must have 2000 hours of experience under on-site supervision after receiving certification before you qualify to work under general supervision. (See A.A.C. R4-24-303(D))
You must verify the qualifications of the certified PTA. (See A.R.S. 32-2043(A & G))	You must receive your instruction of delegation from the supervising physical therapist on each treatment date, which is based on the patient's acuity and treatment plan. (See A.R.S. 32-2043(H) and A.A.C. R4-24-303(B))
You must be available to respond to a communication in 15 minutes. (See A.A.C. R4-24-303(F))	Your supervising physical therapist will most likely rely on you to help them establish patient acuity before they can delegate the procedures for that day's intervention.
You must be able to go to the location the PTA is treating at on that same day. (See A.A.C. R4-24-303(F))	You must document in each patient record the supervising physical therapists name and license number. (See A.A.C. R4-24-303(G))
You may not supervise more than two PTA's working under general supervision at one time. (See A.A.C. R4-24-303(C))	You must document the patient's name and date of service. (See A.A.C. R4-24-303(G))
You must delegate intervention procedures on each date based on each patient's acuity and treatment plan.	You must document the intervention provided. (See A.A.C. R4-24-303(G) and A.A.C. R4-24-304)
You must perform a reevaluation, as detailed in A.A.C. R4-24-304(D) , and provide all treatment provided on that day on every fourth treatment visit or every thirty days, whichever comes first. (See A.A.C. R4-24-303(F))	You must document any consultation you have with your supervising physical therapist. Remember number three (3) above and do not forget to document this discussion when it happens. (See A.A.C. R4-24-303(G))
	If you continue to provide services to a patient after a reevaluation was required, but not performed you can face Board action. If you work beyond your delegated authority you can face Board action. (See A.R.S. 32-2044(5 & 17))

Definitions of Importance:

"Assistive personnel" includes physical therapist assistants and physical therapy aides and other assistive personnel who are trained or educated health care providers and who are not physical therapist assistants or physical therapy aides but who perform specific designated tasks related to physical therapy under the supervision of a physical therapist. At the discretion of the supervising physical therapist, and if properly credentialed and not prohibited by any other law, other assistive personnel may be identified by the title specific to their training or education. This paragraph does not apply to personnel assisting other health care professionals licensed pursuant to this title in the performance of delegable treatment responsibilities within their scope of practice.

"General supervision" means that the supervising physical therapist is on call and is readily available via telecommunications when the physical therapist assistant is providing treatment interventions.

"On-site supervision" means that the supervising physical therapist is on site and is present in the facility or on the campus where assistive personnel or a holder of an interim permit is performing services, is immediately available to assist the person being supervised in the services being performed and maintains continued involvement in appropriate aspects of each treatment session in which a component of treatment is delegated.

"Physical therapist" means a person who is licensed pursuant to this chapter.

"Physical therapist assistant" means a person who meets the requirements of this chapter for certification and who performs physical therapy procedures and related tasks that have been selected and delegated by the supervising physical therapist.

"Physical therapy aide" means a person who is trained under the direction of a physical therapist and who performs designated and supervised routine physical therapy tasks.

"Campus" means a facility and immediately adjacent buildings.

"Facility" means a building where: a. A physical therapist is engaged in the practice of physical therapy; b. An applicant, licensee, or certificate-holder is engaged in a supervised clinical practice; or c. A physical therapist assistant performs physical therapy-related tasks delegated by an onsite supervisor.

"On call," as used in the definition of "general supervision" prescribed under A.R.S. § 32-2001, means a supervising physical therapist is able to go to the location at which and on the same day that a physical therapist assistant provides a selected treatment intervention if the physical therapist, after consultation with the physical therapist assistant, determines that going to the location is in the best interest of the patient.

"Onsite supervisor" means a physical therapist who provides onsite supervision as defined in A.R.S. § 32-2001.

"Readily available," as used in the definition of "general supervision" prescribed under A.R.S. § 32-2001, means a supervising physical therapist is able to respond within 15 minutes to a communication from a physical therapist assistant providing a selected treatment intervention under general supervision.

"Interim permit" means a permit issued by the board that allows a person to practice as a physical therapist in this state or to work as a physical therapist assistant for a specific period of time and under conditions prescribed by the board before that person is issued a license or certificate.

"Supervising physical therapist" means an individual licensed under this Chapter who provides onsite or general supervision to assistive personnel.