National Athletic Trainers' Association

OUTPATIENT THERAPY SERVICES PERFORMED "INCIDENT TO" PHYSICIANS' SERVICES

What are the services we are talking about?

CMS would have you believe that only physical therapists and physical therapist assistants are qualified to provide therapy services.

Fact of the Matter

The athletic trainer's professional preparation is based on the development of specified educational competencies and clinical proficiencies. Through a combination of formal classroom and clinical instruction and clinical experience, the athletic trainer is prepared to provide health care within each of the following content areas:

- **Risk management and injury prevention**
- **Pathology of injuries and illnesses**
- **Clinical examination and diagnosis**
- **Acute care of injury and illness**
- **Pharmacology**
- **Therapeutic modalities**
- **Therapeutic and rehabilitative exercise**
- **General medical conditions and disabilities**
- **Nutritional aspects of injury and illness**
- **Psychosocial intervention and referral**
- **Health care administration**
- **Professional development and responsibilities**

SERVICES

Many of the services listed below are considered by CMS as "always therapy." Always therapy codes must follow all the policies for therapy services. These services are taught in the basic educational programs for athletic training.

Athletic trainers are qualified to perform the following services based on the Educational Competencies set by the National Athletic Trainers' Association.
CAATE standards state that all students must be taught and evaluated on all educational competencies.

Mechanical traction	Vasopneumatic devices	Infrared
Whirlpool	Diathermy	Aquatic therapy
Electrical stimulation	Iontophoresis	Manual therapy
Ultraviolet	Contrast baths	Ultrasound
Therapeutic exercise	Massage	Physical performance test

(Currently CMS will not reimburse these services if performed by an athletic trainer in a physician's office)

There are 341 athletic training programs accredited by Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) across the country.

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