

PHYSICAL THERAPY & DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

HISTORY



50 year history of imaging privileges for physical therapists within the military

PRACTICE



Imaging referral is part of PT practice in a growing number of US states & in Federal health care systems, including Veteran's Affairs

CRITERIA



Physical therapists utilize consensus derived imaging guidelines effectively

EFFECTIVE PATIENT MANAGEMENT



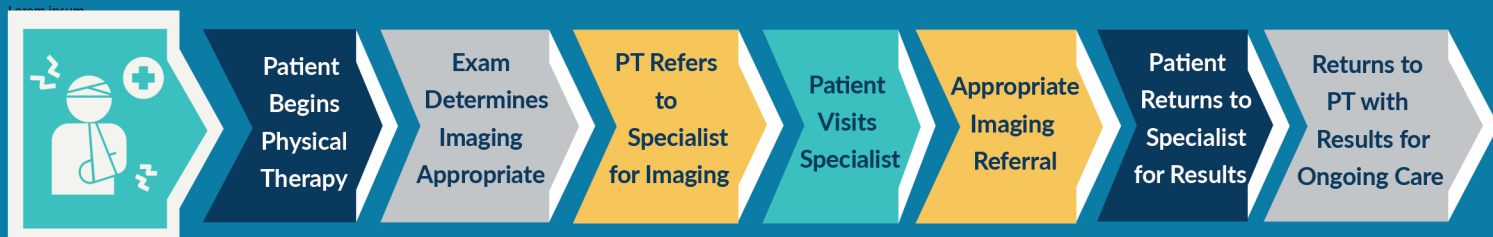
Efficient Utilization

Research shows that quick access to a physical therapist is cost effective and that physical therapists do not over-utilize imaging



Inefficient Patient Care

Lack of PT utilization increases duration of care, contributes to excessive use of imaging and increases cost



QUALITY DRIVEN CARE

Educational Competencies

- Physical therapy education encompasses medical screening and diagnostic imaging.
- Physical therapists follow ACR Appropriateness Criteria and other clinical practice guidelines to determine if imaging is indicated.
- In most states, patients can be seen directly by a PT without a prior medical provider visit.

Evidence Based Outcomes

- Research supports physical therapist competence in referring patients for imaging. ¹
- Physical therapists refer for imaging judiciously and at a lower rate than other providers. ²
- Direct imaging referrals can prevent delays in treatment and reduce the need for additional medical visits. ³

Reference List

1. Springer BA, Arciero RA, Tenuta JJ, Taylor DC. A prospective study of modified Ottawa ankle rules in a military population. Interobserver agreement between physical therapists and orthopaedic surgeons. Am J Sports Med. 2000 Nov-Dec;28(6):864-8.
2. Keil AP, Baranyi B, Mehta S, Maurer A. Ordering of Diagnostic Imaging by Physical Therapists: A 5-Year Retrospective Practice Analysis. Phys Ther. Aug 1 2019;99(8):1020-1026
3. Rendeiro DG, Deyle GD, Boissonnault WG. Imaging in conjunction with physical therapy in management of a patient with history of thoracic tumour. Journal of Manual & Manipulative Therapy. 2015;23(3):123-127