

As a physical therapist practicing in Oregon, passage of HB 3824 is vitally important because it recognizes the vital role that PTs play in Oregon's health care system and the rigorous training, education, and experience that PTs bring to serve our patients.

I recently had a patient who urgently required a four-wheeled walker (4WW). Due to the current regulations, we had to wait two weeks for an order from his primary physician. Subsequently, the DME company sent the wrong walker and encountered difficulties contacting the doctor to rectify the error. Ultimately, the patient, lacking the mobility to manage the return process, had to purchase a walker himself.

This situation could have been entirely avoided if I, as his physical therapist, had been able to place the initial order. The delay and subsequent issues caused the patient considerable physical and emotional distress, hindering his progress in therapy. Allowing physical therapists to prescribe DME would prevent such unnecessary burdens and ensure timely access to crucial equipment for our patients.

HB 3824A aligns the practice of physical therapy in Oregon with the Model Practice Act established by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy – in some cases, like dry needling, expanding care that is available in **46 others states**, but currently not available in Oregon. Dry needling can be instrumental in decreasing pain quickly and decrease patient reliance on medications and other further medical intervention. Dry needling is a safe intervention appropriately used in 46 other states, please support this bill.