

# **SB 584 by Sen. Bryan Hughes**

## **Expansion of Direct Access**

- In 2019 Direct Access for Patients to see a Physical Therapist without a referral from another healthcare provider was enacted into law.
- That legislation allows for patients to see their Physical Therapist for either 10 or 15 days without a referral, depending on credentialing levels of the Physical Therapist.

### **Saves Patients Time and Money**

- SB 584 will expand that timeframe to 30 days to allow many patients to complete their course of treatment.
- This legislation greatly reduces the burden of the patient to have to seek out another provider to allow them to continue the treatment they need.
- It also saves them a great deal of time and money because they do not have to schedule an office visit and meet the co-pay of another provider.

### **There Are No Health or Safety Risks**

- Currently 21 states and the District of Columbia allow 30 days of Direct Access.
- An additional 20 states allow unfettered Direct Access with no set time limit at all.
- Texas is one of only 9 states limiting Direct Access to less than 30 days.
- Physical Therapists refer patients with issues that physical therapy alone cannot remedy to the appropriate physicians for proper diagnoses.
- According to the leading provider of liability coverage for physical therapy, AON, there is no increase in risk for Direct Access.
- There has not been a single complaint to the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners about a Physical Therapist related to Direct Access since the law took effect in September of 2019.

## **Common Sense Legislation that Reduces Cost for Patients and Results in Better Outcomes!**