

To Whom It May Concern:

The Texas Physical Therapy Practice Act states that a “*Physical therapist*” is a person who is licensed by the board as a physical therapist and practices physical therapy. The term includes a hydrotherapist, physiotherapist, mechano-therapist, functional therapist, physical therapy practitioner, physical therapist specialist, physical therapy specialist, physiotherapy practitioner, kinesiotherapist, physical specialist, and myofunctional therapist.

Kinesiotherapists, formerly Corrective Therapists, have been a vital component of the Department of Veterans Affairs physical medicine and rehabilitation program for years, and are listed in the healthcare provider taxonomy (code #226300000X). Kinesiotherapists are the original exercise specialists, and have a long history of serving throughout the physical medicine and rehabilitation service of the Department of Veterans Affairs. **Kinesiotherapy** is the application of scientifically based **exercise** principles adapted to enhance the **strength, endurance**, and mobility of individuals with functional limitations of those requiring extended physical conditioning.

As a Kinesiotherapist with the Department of Veterans Affairs for the last 19 years, I have had the opportunity to spearhead the rehabilitation of many Veterans on land and in the water. Aquatic Therapy is an intricate part of rehabilitation when low pain tolerance is present. I have had the opportunity to work at 5 different VA facilities and start, revamp, or maintain their Aquatic Programs. I have co-treated with Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapist and Therapeutic Recreation Therapists. We all have unique specialties to offer the Veteran. Kinesiotherapy offers a more personable approach to rehab and develops long lasting professional relationship with the Veterans which is important to decrease the rehabilitation regression rate in the populations we serve.

As a kinesiotherapist in the state of Texas, I would request that the term kinesiotherapist be removed from the definition of a *Physical Therapist* as part of the Sunset Review. Kinesiotherapist is not a term equivalent to Physical Therapist. To include the term kinesiotherapist in the Physical Therapy Practice Act is misleading to the public. It also undermines the multi-disciplinary team approach prevalent in VA Rehabilitation Departments across the United States where kinesiotherapists have faithfully served our veteran population for over 70 years.

Sincerely,

Teia D. Hopewell, RKT, Supervisor of Kinesiotherapy CTXHCS