

1 **Physical Therapy Payment Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Michael K. McKell**

House Sponsor: David Shallenberger

2  
3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill amends provisions related to health insurance cost sharing for physical therapists.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

8 ▶ requires a health insurer to use the same cost sharing methods that the insurer uses for  
9 primary care providers for physical therapy services.

10 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

11 None

12 **Other Special Clauses:**

13 This bill provides a special effective date.

14 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

15 AMENDS:

16 **31A-22-624**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 50

17  
18 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

19 Section 1. Section **31A-22-624** is amended to read:

20 **31A-22-624 . Primary care physician, physician assistant, or physical therapist.**

21 (1) An accident and health insurance policy that requires an insured to select a primary care  
22 provider or physician to receive optimum coverage shall permit an insured to select a  
23 participating provider who is:

24 (a)(i) an obstetrician;

25 (ii) a gynecologist;

26 (iii) a pediatrician; or

27 (iv) a physician assistant who works with a physician:

28 (A) providing primary care; or

29 (B) described in Subsection (1)(a)(i), (ii), or (iii); and

30 (b) qualified and willing to provide primary care services, as defined by the health care

31 plan, as the insured's provider from whom primary care services are received.

32 (2) Subject to Subsection [~~(5)~~] (6), an accident and health insurance policy that requires an  
 33 insured to select a primary care provider or physician to receive optimum coverage [~~may~~]  
 34 shall permit an insured to select a participating provider who is a physical therapist to  
 35 provide physical therapy services.

36 (3)

36a ~~Ĥ~~→ (a) ←~~Ĥ~~ An accident and health insurance policy that provides coverage for  
 36b physical therapy  
 37 services may not impose a copayment, coinsurance, or office visit deductible for a  
 38 covered physical therapy visit that exceeds the copayment, coinsurance, or office  
 38a visit  
 39 deductible applicable to a visit with a primary care provider.

39a ~~Ĥ~~→ (b) **Subsection (3)(a) applies to a health benefit plan renewed or entered into**  
 39b **on or after January 1, 2027.** ←~~Ĥ~~

40 [~~(3)~~] (4) An accident and health insurance policy shall clearly state in literature explaining  
 41 the policy the options available to insureds under Subsections (1) and (2).

42 [~~(4)~~] (5) An accident and health insurance policy may not impose a higher premium, higher  
 43 copayment requirement, or any other additional expense on an insured because the  
 44 insured selected a primary care physician in accordance with this section.

45 [~~(5)~~] (6) Notwithstanding Subsection (2), nothing in this section permits a physical therapist  
 46 to practice physical therapy outside of the physical therapist's scope of practice under  
 47 Title 58, Chapter 24b, Physical Therapy Practice Act.

48 Section 2. **Effective Date.**

49 This bill takes effect on January 1, 2027.