

You must be able to prove you have met all of the educational requirements, independently of the supervision provision of the law. Should you be audited, you would have to be able to show proof that you have met the education requirements.

Requirements for Physical Therapists to Qualify for the Spinal Manipulation Endorsement in Washington State

One year orthopedic post-grad practice: direct patient care, working 36 hours per week

Education

- 100 hours of differential diagnosis education
- 250 hours of didactic and practical training in spinal manipulative procedures
- 150 hours of spinal diagnostic imaging education

Clinical Supervision

- 300 hours of supervised clinical experience in spinal manipulative procedures
 - Close supervision for the first 150 hours
 - Supervisor is in the room and has personally diagnosed the condition to be treated and has authorized the spinal manipulative procedure(s) to be performed
 - Additional 150 hours
 - Direct supervision where supervisor is on the premises

Qualified supervisors include (new as of 7-1-2020):

- Washington physical therapist with an endorsement
- Licensed chiropractor
- Licensed osteopathic physician and surgeon

Computing Your Educational Hours

- In your computations, you may also include hours observing, such as in radiology and spinal surgeries
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kinesiology • Anatomy • Physiology • Orthopedics • Clinical sciences • Differential diagnosis • Pathophysiology • Pharmacology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical reasoning • Pathology • Advanced imaging • Evidence-based practice • Behavioral science | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation • PT practice and interventions • Cardiopulmonary systems • Neuromuscular systems • Multiple systems |
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Calculation of Hours

- One quarter credit = 37.5 clock hours
- One semester credit = 56.25 clock hours
- One CEU = 10 clock hours
- One contact hour = 1 clock hour
- One supervised clinical hour = 1 clock hour

Additional Requirements of the New Law

- To keep your endorsement you must take 10 hours of continuing education that directly relates to spinal manipulation during every two-year continuing education reporting period. Five of the hours must be related to spinal manipulative procedural techniques.
- If you know your patient is also being treated by a chiropractor for the same diagnosis, you must make a reasonable effort to coordinate patient care to prevent conflict and duplication of treatment services.
- You may not perform spinal manipulation as more than 50 percent of your practice.
- You must consult with another non-physical therapist practitioner who may perform spinal manipulation if more than six spinal manipulation treatments are needed for the same segment. This includes the following practitioners: a Chiropractor, Osteopathic physician, a Naturopath or a Medical Doctor.
- PTs may not advertise that they provide spinal manipulation, manipulative mobilization of the spine, chiropractic adjustment, spinal adjustment, maintenance or wellness manipulation, or chiropractic care of any kind. In other words, you may not print that you provide spinal manipulation on signage, business cards and other advertising. Those with an endorsement may verbally state that you perform spinal manipulation or that you are going to include it in a particular treatment session.
- PTs may not bill for spinal manipulation using coding specific to spinal manipulation. They may bill the spinal manipulation portion of their treatments as manual therapy.
- Only Washington licensees may obtain an endorsement.
- PTs may not delegate spinal manipulation to PTAs or other supportive personnel.

Timeline Factors

- Spinal Manipulation practice became legal with endorsement July 1, 2015
- Those who have completed all education requirements must complete their supervision requirements (300 HOURS) **18 months** after they've completed coursework.
 - Didactic and training may be done at same time as the supervision work. No specified time period for didactic.
- The providers who may provide the clinical supervision required changed to the shorter list included earlier in this document on July 1, 2020.