WISCONSIN ATCs have been officially licensed by the state’s Department of Regulation and Licensing. Licensed athletic trainers’ professional credential in Wisconsin is abbreviated as LAT. LATs in Wisconsin practicing under a specific scope of practice are found in athletic settings, hospitals and clinics, industry, health clubs, professional sports, and physician clinics. Each of the settings uses the expertise of LATs and athletic training methodology as an effective way of treating injuries and illness. More specifically, the occupational settings that employ LATs are benefiting from a unique allied-health-care provider who can work with the physically active population. As LATs practice in key practice domains, musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) are proactively addressed in a variety of occupational settings. The following are examples of the proactive approaches used by LATs in occupational settings today in Wisconsin:

**Injury Prevention**
- Conduct health assessments such as preemployment physicals with physicians.
- Conduct ergonomic analysis.
- Implement health, wellness, and MSD education programs.

**Recognition and Evaluation**
- Review injury descriptions using biomechanics and muscle-physiology information.
- Establish a medical plan of action based on injury situations.
- Administer first aid.
- Use skills in assessment and evaluation.
- Conduct functional-capacity examinations.

**Rehabilitation**
- Implement rehabilitation programs approved by physicians.
- Develop and implement short- and long-term rehabilitation goals.
- Use functional rehabilitation and return-to-work methods.
Administration
- Accurately document workplace injuries, including mechanism of injury.
- Establish emergency plans.
- Act as coordinators, facilitators, or department heads in the occupational setting.

Education and Guidance
- Develop and implement educational and research programs in order to prevent injury.
- Conduct continuing-education programs for all employees and management regarding MSDs, physical conditioning, and wellness.

Occupational Settings and Wisconsin LATs
Various practice models are commonly being used in occupational-medicine settings in Wisconsin. The success of these models can be attributed to the state licensure and the professional commitment to help industry with MSDs. Furthermore, the Wisconsin Athletic Trainers’ Association Reimbursement Committee has been able to formulate program-design models for LATs in the occupational setting. Because of the number of MSDs occurring in industry, OSHA’s guidelines for MSD-control measures, and the high costs associated with MSDs, the occupational setting is benefiting greatly from LATs involved as physician extenders, in clinical rehabilitation, and in industry rehabilitation outreach programs.

Physician-Extender Model
Over the years, physicians have recognized the importance of LATs in athletic settings such as college and professional sports. Physicians in Wisconsin are beginning to recognize the full potential of LATs with their patient populations. LATs provide occupational physicians their special skills of assessment, management, and rehabilitation. They also provide patient education, teach home exercise programs, and facilitate communication with the patients’ employers regarding the status of their MSDs. As LATs assist with the plan of care for evaluation and treatment, the charges associated with these services are billed “incident to” the physician. In other situations, facility charges are included to cover the costs of having LATs as physician extenders. Outcome studies at the national level show that patients working with athletic trainers demonstrate significantly reduced reinjury rates, restricted workdays, and lost work time and have a 98% or higher patient-satisfaction rating.

Clinical/Hospital Rehabilitation Model
Since the passage of state licensure for athletic trainers in Wisconsin, the door has opened for endless possibilities for LATs in the clinical/hospital model. In Wisconsin, LATs are following a specific athletic training scope of practice. In doing so, they are practicing athletic training and follow appropriate protocols as established by a consulting physician.

In this setting, LATs can rehabilitate patients suffering from occupational injuries, as long as the injury follows the parameters of the Wisconsin athletic-training-licensure scope of practice. Once an LAT receives a physician’s referral for athletic training services, he or she can initiate the rehabilitation process in the clinical/hospital setting. All services are billed to the workers’-compensation carrier with the appropriate CPT coding. Consequently, the LAT can establish a clinical caseload of patients requiring services for athletic training and referred by a licensed physician or chiropractor.

Before the actual billing process can begin, LATs need to develop a facility-specific reimbursement process for athletic training services. The Wisconsin Athletic Trainers’ Association Reimbursement Committee created specific templates to facilitate this process.

Outreach Services to Industry and Business
Industry and business use LATs through outreach services. In this setting, LATs are contracted to attend to the needs of employees. In some situations, industries cannot afford the full-time services of an LAT. Consequently, the outreach enables them to provide proactive medical care to their employees.

In this setting, LATs provide MSD-prevention, assessment, ergonomic-analysis, rehabilitation, and documentation services. In addition, they can provide on-site rehabilitation, under the direction of a licensed