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Summaries of all of the proposed amendments from the Board's October 24th meeting can be found on page 5.

What's New for 2015?

With the new year fast approaching, 2015 will usher in changes to reevaluation requirements, the method of renewing a PT or PTA license, and practice with a temporary license if proposed rules are adopted.

At its October 24th meeting, the PT Board proposed amendments to several rules including §322.1. Provision of Services (d). If adopted in 2015, the amendment would change the timeframe for reevaluation of a patient from at a minimum of once every 30 days to once every 60 days after treatment is initiated. Provision of physical therapy treatment by a PTA or physical therapy aide cannot continue until the reevaluation is completed.

The Board also proposed an amendment to §341.1. Requirements for Renewal which would convert license renewal dates from the current anniversary method wherein licenses are renewed on the two-year anniversary of the license's first issuance to a birth-month system in which all renewals will occur every two years at the end of the birth month of the licensee. The transition will not only make it easier for licensees to track when they need to renew but will also eliminate agency workload spikes in renewals caused by fixed-date testing.

A new category for issuing a temporary license to restoration applicants completing supervised clinical practice is established in the proposed amendment to §329.3. Temporary Licensure. Additional revisions to the rule would change the supervision requirement of the temporary licensee to a physical therapist only, and would allow a temporary licensee to begin work on the basis of website verification of licensure.

Summaries of all of the proposed amendments from the Board's October 24th meeting can be found on page 5, and full text of the proposed rules is available at www.ptot.texas.gov/page/act-and-rules.

Board Member Changes

On October 25, 2014, Governor Rick Perry appointed Barbara Sanders, PT, PhD, SCS, FAPTA of Austin to the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners to fill an unexpired term to expire January 1, 2017.

Physical Therapy Board

Gary Gray, PT, Chair
 Shari Waldie, PT, Vice Chair
 Melinda Rodriguez, PT, DPT, Sec.
 Harvey Aikman, PT
 Jeff Tout, PT
 Barbara Sanders, PT PhD
 Daniel Renya, Public Member
 René Pena, Public Member
 Philip Vickers, Public Member

Dr. Sanders currently serves as Professor of Physical Therapy, Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy, Interim Director of the School of Health Administration, and Associate Dean of the College of Health Professions, Texas State University. She received her physical therapy education at the University of Kentucky and completed her doctoral work at the University of Texas. At Texas State for over 25 years, she has had responsibility for development of the curriculum for entry level education for physical therapists at the baccalaureate, masters and the doctorate level. Prior to her appointment at Texas State, Sanders served as Director of Clinical Education at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse and on the faculty at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Sanders has been an active participant in Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) serving as a site visitor and team leader for over 10 years. She has been a consultant in education and evaluation of foreign educated physical therapists.

Dr. Sanders has been active in a number of professional organizations including serving on the Board of Trustees of CGFNS International (currently Secretary), the board of the Academic Council of the APTA, an active member of the AAOSM, ICCUS, and the APTA and state chapters. She currently serves as the Vice President of the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT), chair of Awards Committee for the Sports Section, liaison from ACAPT to the FSBPT, and previously served as liaison from the TPTA to the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. A board certified specialist in sports, Sanders has been in clinical practice in Kentucky, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Tennessee and Texas; in acute care, rehabilitation, home health, long term care, outpatient orthopaedics and sports. She was recognized in 2010 with designation as a Catherine Worthingham Fellow of the APTA.



*Barbara Sanders, PT, PhD
 appointed to TBPTE*

Dr. Sanders is appointed to fill the unexpired term vacated by Kathleen Luedtke-Hoffmann, PT, PhD, who has accepted the position of Assistant Managing Director of the Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy (FCCPT) in Alexandria, VA. She will begin her employment with FCCPT effective January 1, 2015.

Welcome aboard, Dr. Sanders!

And

Best Wishes, Dr. Luedtke-Hoffman!

Continuing Competence Credit for Clinical Instructors

Since the revision to §341.3 Qualifying Continuing Competence Activities became effective March 1, 2014, the new activity of continuing competence (CC) credit for service as a clinical instructor (CI) has generated an enormous amount of interest and questions. In response to comments that some PTA clinical rotations are only 5 weeks in length which would exclude those CIs from claiming the credit, the PT Board amended the Rule which became effective August 17, 2014.

In summation of the Rule, the credit can be claimed by licensees who serve as a clinical instructor for full-time, entry-level PT or PTA students who are enrolled in accredited education. The activity is automatically approved with the standard approval number of 90004TX, and must be completed within the 24 months prior to license expiration.

The amount of credit that can be claimed is dependent on the length of the clinical rotation with valuation of 5 – 11 weeks = 5 CCUs and 12 weeks or longer = 10 CCUs. Additionally, there is a limit of the number of CCUs that a licensee can submit during a renewal period; maximum of 10 CCUs for PTs and 8 CCUs for PTAs.

If randomly selected for the continuing competence audit, the licensee must submit a letter or certificate confirming the clinical supervision including the number of weeks and dates supervised from the affiliated educational program.

Below are specific questions/answers regarding the interpretation of the Rule that the Board has addressed.

Q. Do students have to be from a PT or PTA program in Texas for a CI to claim credit?

A. No, any licensee who serves as a CI can claim the credit as long as the student is from an accredited PT or PTA program.

Q. I am a CI in another state but maintain my TX license. Can I claim credit for my CI service when I renew my TX license?

A. Yes, as long as all of the provisions of the Rule are met, you can claim credit for your CI service.

Q. Do I have to notify my ACCE/DCE that I want CCU credit in advance of a student's arrival?

A. The Rule does not require any advanced notice prior to the student's arrival for a CI to claim credit. If you are not automatically issued a letter or certificate at the completion of a qualified clinical rotation, it is your responsibility to assure that you have the required documentation of your service as a CI at the conclusion of the clinical rotation in order to claim the credit during license renewal.

Q. Do I have to be a credentialed CI through either the APTA or the TX Consortium CI Certification program to receive the credit?

A. No, the Rule applies to any licensee who serves as a CI whether credentialed or not.

Q. Can I receive 5 CCUs under the 5-11 weeks criteria if I supervise 2 students during separate 4-week clinicals?

A. No, the intent of the Rule is supervision of a student during consecutive 5-11 weeks, not an aggregate of number of weeks with more than one student. The scenario in the next question is an exception.

Q. A PT/PTA program has 2 CIs at a facility and places 2 students there during the same 6-week clinical rotation. Each CI has 1 of the students for 3 weeks, after which they switch students for the remaining 3 weeks. Each CI has served as a CI for the entire 6-week clinical rotation. Can they both claim credit for service as a CI?

A. Yes, the PT Board has determined this scenario meets the intent of the Rule as there is a consecutive 6 weeks of instructorship by both CIs.

Licensure and Facility Registration Certificates Now Available Online

Statement of Licensure and *Statement of Facility Registration* certificates are now available online through the license/registration verification function. If certificates are needed for credentialing purposes, the Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners (ECPTOTE) website is considered to be a secure, primary source for individual license and facility registration verification. ECPTOTE updates the information every business day, and issuance and renewal of licenses and facility registrations appear on the website by the end of the next business day. Printable wallet cards are also available for those licensees that wish to carry a card. To access, click on **Look up a License** from the homepage at www.ptot.texas.gov, or click on one of the links below.



A Statement of Licensure certificate and wallet card for licensees can be accessed through the SSN and DOB search through the PT or PTA License Verification under the Professional License tab at www.ptot.texas.gov/page/look-up-a-license

A Statement of Registration certificate can be accessed and printed through any of the facility search tabs at www.ptot.texas.gov/page/facility-license-search



Disciplinary Actions

The following disciplinary actions were taken at the October 24, 2014 Board Meeting:

- (1) **Jane Adamczyk, PT #1101327 (McKinney)** – failed the CC audit; ethics course taken outside the renewal period. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 341 of the Board Rules. **Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.**
- (2) **Georgia Groomer, PT #1070480 (Helotes)** – failed the CE audit; insufficient board-approved hours taken in the renewal period. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 341 of the Board Rules. **Board Order suspended her license for forty-five (45) days.**
- (3) **Julie Modzelewski, PT #1128338 (Houston)** – practiced in a detrimental manner by treating a patient without a referral from a qualified healthcare practitioner. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act. **Board Order suspended her license for thirty (30) days.**
- (4) **Holly Phillips, PTA #2037893 (Livingston)** – practiced in a detrimental manner by inaccurately documenting treatments rendered. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. **Board Order suspended her license for fifteen (15) days.**
- (5) **Keri Ann Clark, PT #1170769 (Hutto)** – practiced in a detrimental manner by inaccurately documenting treatments she did not make. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. **Board Order suspended her license for sixty (60) days.**
- (6) **Benjamin Odom, PT #1210797 (Dallas)** – practiced in a detrimental manner by using drugs or intoxicating liquors to an extent that affected his professional competence; resulting in his inability to remain on the job and treat his patients. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act. **Board Order suspended his license for thirty (30) days.**

New NPTE Eligibility Requirements

For those individuals who are re-taking the NPTE, the Federation of Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) will be implementing lifetime and low score limits on January 1, 2016.

- Candidates will be able to take the exam a maximum of 6 times.
- An individual can take the NPTE for PTs 6 times and also take the NPTE for PTAs 6 times if he or she is otherwise qualified to do so.
- Candidates who receive two very low scores on the exam, currently defined as performing at or close to chance level (scale scores 400 and below), will not be allowed to test again.

For more information regarding the change in eligibility requirements, visit www.fsbpt.org.

Proposed/Adopted Rules

The Board took the following rulemaking actions at the **October 24, 2014 Board meeting**. The full text of all proposed and adopted rules is available at: www.ptot.texas.gov/page/act-and-rules. If you would like to comment on proposed rules, please send your written comments to info@ptot.texas.gov, or 333 Guadalupe, Suite 2-510, Austin, TX 78701.

Proposed Rules:

§322.1. Provision of Services – The amendment to (d) changes the timeframe for re-evaluation of a patient from 30 days after treatment is initiated to 60 days after treatment is initiated before provision of physical therapy treatment by a physical therapist assistant or a physical therapy aide can continue.

§329.3. Temporary Licensure for Examination Candidates – The amendment establishes a new category for issuing a temporary license to restoration applicants completing supervised clinical practice, changes the supervision requirement of the temporary licensee to a physical therapist only, and allows a temporary licensee to begin work on the basis of website verification of licensure.

§329.6. Licensure by Endorsement - The amendment eliminates the requirement of a two year work history for provisional licensure in order to comply with legislative changes during the 83rd Legislature.

§341.1. Requirements for Renewal - The amendment establishes a conversion of license renewal dates from the current method to birth month renewal.

§341.3. Qualifying Continuing Competence Activities - The amendment aligns the criteria for claiming continuing competence credit for mentoring a fellow or resident with the criteria set by the accrediting entity, the American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education (ABPTRFE).

§341.6 License Restoration - The amendments establish a timeframe for completion of supervised clinical practice for restoring a Texas license that has been expired for one to five years, and clarifies the application requirements for a new license if an applicant is not eligible for restoration.