



## ▀ New CE Category Guidelines Residencies, Fellowships and Specialty Exams

In March 2007, the Board amended §341.3, Qualifying Continuing Education, to add a section on Residencies, Fellowships, and Specialty Examinations. In August 2007, it finalized policy and guidelines for the approval of those types of continuing education and officially published the list of specialty examinations it automatically approved for CE credit. All other specialty exams or certifications must be submitted to the TPTA for approval and inclusion on the list. TPTA is currently working on a new approval form for submission of specialty exams. Once the specialty exam, fellowship, or residency is approved, no other licensee is required to submit it for approval. It is automatically approved for all of those who can show completion of the exam, residency or fellowship.

### **LIST OF SPECIALTY EXAMINATIONS that Qualify for CE Credit Approved by the Board May 4, 2007**

1. The American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties (ABPTS) – **for 3.0 CEUs**
  - CCS (Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Certified Specialist)
  - ECS (Clinical Electrophysiologic Certified Specialist)
  - GCS (Geriatric Certified Specialist)
  - NCS (Neurologic Certified Specialist)
  - OCS (Orthopaedic Certified Specialist)
  - PCS (Pediatric Certified Specialist)
  - SCS (Sports Certified Specialist)
2. Hand Therapy Certification Commission (HTCC) certification exam – **for 3.0 CEUs**

### **POLICY on Approving Residencies, Fellowships and Examinations Approved by the Board August 3, 2007**

1. The examinations listed above are automatically approved by the Board for inclusion on the list.
2. Other specialty certification examinations may be added to the list by the TPTA, once they have approved them.
3. The TPTA will use the guidelines approved by the Board (see below) to approve additional exams.
4. To be added to the list, an exam must be submitted to the TPTA for approval by an individual or organization.
5. Once the original submission is approved, the exam does not have to be submitted for approval by any other licensee who wants to use it to fulfill license renewal requirements. *(continued on next page)*

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6. A licensee using an approved exam to meet renewal requirements must verify the exam's approval number with TPTA, and provide evidence of successful completion if audited.
7. The TPTA will notify the Board of any additions to the list of approved exams in its quarterly report.

### **GUIDELINES for Approval of Specialty Examinations – for up to 3.0 CEUs**

#### *1. Criteria for an "Acceptable" Specialty Examination (All must be met in order for examination to be "acceptable.")*

- a. The certification for which the examination is taken must be clearly related to the practice of physical therapy as defined in §341.3(b)(2)(a) and should address a specialty or subspecialty within physical therapy.
- b. There must be minimum eligibility requirements for a person to take the examination:
  - 1) At least a bachelor's degree must be required for physical therapists; an associate's degree for physical therapist assistants; and
  - 2) A minimum amount of clinical experience in the area of specialization must be required by the certifying agency.
- c. Certification must be time-limited with a specified process of recertification that includes, but is not limited to, a minimum amount of clinical experience after certification and re-examination or continuing education.
- d. The examination must meet the standards for assessment instruments as specified in the "Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing" (AERA, APA, NCME). [Note: Accreditation through the NCCA requires compliance with these standards.]
- e. The examination must be proctored and offered in a secure environment.

#### *2. Criteria for Determining the Amount of CE Credit Granted*

- a. Completion of an ABPTS examination will receive full credit (3.0 CEUs).
- b. Other "acceptable" examinations will receive credit based on the number of hours allowed for taking the examination with full credit being granted for examinations taking 6 hours or more (ABPTS exams take 6 hours for completion). For example, a test requiring 3 hours for completion would be eligible for 1.5 CEU credits. (i.e, credit is given in a ratio of 1 CEU per 2 hours of exam.)

### **GUIDELINES for Approval of APTA Fellowships/Residencies – for up to 3.0 CEUs**

1. Credit will only be granted on successful completion of the residency/fellowship assuming that the experience was credentialed by the Committee on Clinical Residency and Fellowship Credentialing for the entire time in which the resident/fellow was enrolled in the program.
2. Credit will only be granted for the renewal cycle during which the experience is completed.
3. Successful completion of an APTA credentialed residency/fellowship will be granted 3.0 CEUs.

**FSBPT – Practice Review Tool (Examination)** *Texas is participating in a pilot project as part of the development of a new competency assessment tool. More information regarding this project will be available in the next newsletter.*

Credit of 1.5 CEUs will be granted for participation in the pilot study for the Practice Review Tool of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT), based on a Certificate of Completion issued by the FSBPT.



## Disciplinary Action Taken by the Board On August 3, 2007

**Ricky Cain, PT #1144574 (Austin) – failed the CE audit;** insufficient continuing education hours taken during the period of renewal. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and chapter 341 of the Board Rules. **Board Order required sixty (60) hours of community service.**

### PT RULE UPDATE

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AND NEW RULES PENDING

There are no proposed new rules or amendments pending currently.

If you have comments or questions about the proposed rules, please contact Nina Hurter, PT Coordinator, at [nhurter@mail.capnet.state.tx.us](mailto:nhurter@mail.capnet.state.tx.us) or 512/305-6900.

### Useful Phone Numbers

**Trailblazer Health Enterprises** (Medicare Program administrator) [www.trailblazerhealth.com](http://www.trailblazerhealth.com)

**Medicare Part A 888/763-9836** (rehab depts, hospitals)

**Medicare Part B 903/463-0720** (independent practitioners)

**Medicaid 800/252-8263**

**TX Dept. of State Health Services (DSHS)** Licensing and certification of many Health and Safety Code facilities (including hospitals), and of many other health professions [www.dshs.state.tx.us](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us)  
**512/834-6650**

**TX Dept. of Aging & Disability Services (DADS)** [www.dads.state.tx.us](http://www.dads.state.tx.us)

\*long term care **800/458-9858**

\*nursing home **800/252-8016**

\*home health agency **800/228-1570**

**TX Dept. of Assistive & Rehabilitative Services (DARS), Division for Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)**  
[www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis](http://www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis)  
**800/250-2246**

**TX Education Agency (TEA)**

[www.tea.state.tx.us](http://www.tea.state.tx.us)

**512/463-9734**

**Division of Workers' Compensation  
at the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI)**

[www.tdi.state.tx.us](http://www.tdi.state.tx.us)

**00/578-4677**

**State of Texas website - links to all state info**

[www.texasonline.com](http://www.texasonline.com)

