

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
**Rules Committee Teleconference Minutes**  
**Professional Licensing Boards**  
**September 12, 2013 \* 3:00 p.m.**

**Committee Members Present:**

Charlene Portee, PT  
Dorothy Gaskin, PT

**Staff Present:**

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director  
Wanda Jaffe, Licensing Analyst  
Tamara Elliott, Board Support Specialist

Dr. Portee established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

**Open Session**

The Committee discussed making the following changes underlined changes:

**490-2-.09 Licensure: Endorsement.**

There is no need for amendment to Endorsement rule regarding CE hours because the Statute 43-33-15 covers it. 490-4-.02

The committee adds a number 5 to the rule with information from rule 490-4-.01 #4a,b,c to make the rules clear and understandable.

**490-2-.09 Licensure: Endorsement.**

- (1) The Board may, in its discretion register a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant without an examination as set forth in Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 43-33-15 upon payment of applicable fees. (Refer to fee schedule)
- (2) Any applicant applying for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. 43-33-15 and who is a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) and approved by the Board, must provide:
  - (a) a list of all states where the applicant holds an active license; and
  - (b) verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has actively practiced in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application; and
  - (c) official transcript from the institution granting the entry level degree in physical therapy or physical therapist assistant indicating the date of graduation; and
  - (d) scores from the national licensing examination.
- (3) Any applicant applying for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. 43-33-15 who is a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) or approved by the Board, must provide:
  - (a) a list of all states where the applicant holds an active license; and
  - (b) verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has actively practiced in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application; and
  - (c) official evaluation and transcript from a credential evaluation organization approved by the State of Georgia; and
  - (d) scores from the national licensing examination.
- (4) Proper proof of licensure in good standing from the state(s) where the applicant practiced in the two years immediately preceding this application, proof of graduation from an accredited physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program or credential evaluations deemed substantially equivalent to the professional degree, and satisfactory completion of the licensing examination shall be deemed to be prima facie evidence of compliance with Code Section 43-33-15. The Board, however, may request further verification of any credential submitted if deemed necessary to evaluate the application.
- (5) A physical therapist or physical therapist assistant that has been previously licensed in this State who has allowed his/her license to become revoked due to failure to renew, shall be required to submit an application for reinstatement, pay appropriate fee (refer to fee schedule), and shall also be required to meet requirements as provided below:

- (a) An applicant who is able to document that he/she has practiced as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant within 2 years shall be required to submit proof of continuing competence requirements as established by the Board;  
(b) An applicant who is unable to document that he/she has practiced as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant within 2 years but is able to document such practice within 5 years shall be required to submit proof of continuing competence (Refer to 490-4-.02), and shall be required to work under the supervision of a physical therapist licensed in this state for 480 hours of continuous supervised practice to be completed within 3 months with specific stipulations as deemed necessary by the Board, and shall be required to take and pass the examination on the laws governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia and the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy; or  
(c) An applicant who is unable to document that he/she has practiced as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant within 5 years shall be required to work under the supervision of a physical therapist licensed in this state for 1,000 hours of continuous supervised practice to be completed in no less than 6 months or no more than 1 year if approved by the Board with specific stipulations as deemed necessary by the Board and shall be required to take and pass the following examinations: the licensing examination, and the examination on the laws governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia and the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy.

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. 43-33-15. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Examination Proctors" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** F. May 1, 1973; eff. May 21, 1973. **Amended:** New Rule entitled "Licensure: Endorsement" adopted. F. June 27, 1995; eff. July 17, 1995.

#### **490-2-.04 Training Permits.**

A training permit may be issued pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 43-33-10 and 43-33-17 of the Georgia Physical Therapy Act to a qualified applicant following Board-approval of a properly submitted application.

(a) Qualified applicants are:

1. graduates of entry-level programs for physical therapists or physical therapist assistants from either a CAPTE or a non-CAPTE-accredited school who have taken and passed the national licensing examination and an examination on the laws and rules governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia; or
2. applicants for reinstatement, who have not practiced for two (2) and up to five (5) years; or
3. applicants for reinstatement who have not practiced for more than five (5) years and who have successfully taken and passed the national licensing examination and an examination on the laws and rules governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia; or
4. applicants for endorsement, who have not practiced for two (2) and up to five (5) years; or
5. applicants for endorsement who have not practiced for more than five (5) years and who have successfully taken and passed the national licensing examination and an examination on the laws and rules governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia.

(b) Initial Applications and Reinstatement Applications.

1. A notarized training permit application form must be submitted by the trainee's supervisor specifying:

- (i) the name and license number of the trainee supervisor who will be responsible for the conduct of the traineeship as defined under section (e) of this rule; and
- (ii) the name, address, phone, fax number and e-mail address of all sites where the trainee and supervisor may be working during the course of the traineeship; and
- (iii) the effective dates of the traineeship; and
- (iv) acceptance of responsibility for trainee supervision and completion of the performance evaluation; and
- (v) termination of the traineeship as defined herein; and
- (vi) type of facility.

(c) Renewal.

1. A training permit may be renewed one time, for no more than six (6) months, upon written request and with approval of the Board, and only for one good and exceptional reason as determined by the Board. Failure to pass the licensing examination is not considered a good and exceptional reason. For purposes of this rule, good and exceptional reasons include but are not limited to:

- (i) Death of an immediate family member; or
  - (ii) Illness or incapacitation of the applicant or immediate family member (a physician's statement is required); or
  - (iii) Jury duty (proof required).
- (d) Validity of Permit.

1. Training permits are subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Able to be initiated in the State of Georgia within three months of issuance of such permit.
  - (ii) Must be returned to the Board by the trainee with a brief explanation of why it was not used.
  - (iii) A 480 hour traineeship must be completed within three (3) months of initiation. A 1000 hour traineeship must be completed in no less than 6 months or no more than 1 year if approved by the Board;
  - (iv) A training permit shall become invalid and must be immediately returned to the Board office by the trainee if:
    - (I) the trainee fails to complete the traineeship within the above prescribed time frames; or
    - (II) if the trainee does not exhibit performance satisfactory to the supervisor.
- (e) Supervision.

1. The supervisor named on the training permit application holds full responsibility under their license for direct, continuous, on-site supervision of the trainee at all times. The supervisor must assure that the trainee does not perform any patient care activities in his/her absence.

2. If for some reason the primary supervisor cannot fulfill their duties as supervisor, a new application requesting an alternate supervisor must be approved by the Board. The trainee may not participate in direct patient care until an alternate supervisor is approved by the Board. The alternate supervisor will assure compliance with all terms and obligations outlined in this rule.

3. The supervisor or approved alternate supervisor must hold a Georgia license in good standing under O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapter 33, and have practiced full time for not less than one continuous year.

4. The supervisor must regularly evaluate trainee performance in all areas as specified by the Board. At the end of the traineeship period, the supervisor must submit a performance evaluation on the board approved traineeship performance evaluation reporting form

5. The supervisor must notify the Board of unsatisfactory performance at which time the training permit becomes null and void.

6. The supervising therapist will supervise no more than two (2) trainees at one time.

**History.** Original Rule entitled “Temporary Registration” adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** F. Mar. 8, 1971; eff. Mar. 28, 1971. **Amended:** New Rule entitled “Temporary Registration” adopted. F. May 1, 1973; eff. May 21, 1973. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 31, 1974; eff. June 20, 1974. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Nov. 27, 1984; eff. Dec. 17, 1984. **Repealed:** New Rule entitled “Temporary License” adopted. F. Feb. 28, 1986; eff. Mar. 20, 1986. **Amended:** F. Jan. 28, 1987; eff. Feb. 17, 1987. **Amended:** F. Dec. 30, 1987; eff. Jan. 19, 1988. **Repealed:** New Rule entitled “Training Permits” adopted. F. May 26, 1993; eff. June 15, 1993. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Nov. 22, 1996; eff. Dec. 12, 1996. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. June 19, 1998; eff. July 9, 1998. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 26, 2005; eff. June 15, 2005. **Repealed:** New Rule of the same title adopted. F. Sept. 24, 2010; eff. Oct. 14, 2010. **Repealed:** New Rule of the same title adopted. F. May 25, 2012; eff. Jun. 14, 2012.

The committee does not want to add another/alternate supervisor to the above rule and rule stay as is.

**Policy #2 - Examination applications (Board Rule 490-2-.02)**

2. (a) Effective November 21, 2011, the Board will make eligible, applicants for licensure by examination upon receipt of proof from either the College / University Registrar, Dean, PT or PTA Program Director at the applicant’s CAPTE-accredited PT / PTA program stating that the applicant has successfully completed the Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant program but is awaiting degree conferment. The Board has provided, as part of the application, a form that must be completed by the appropriate school representative and submitted to the Board.

2. (b) The Board has designated a board member to review all non-CAPTE and all foreign educated examination applications for approval.

2. (c) An applicant that has not passed the national physical therapy examination by the fourth (4th) time will not be allowed to sit for the examination for a 5th time without extensive further study, which may include completing a physical therapy educational program approved by CAPTE.

2. (d) Applicants for initial licensure by exam must take and pass the electronic Georgia Jurisprudence Exam the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT).

*Policy approved at the March 16, 2004 meeting.*

*Policy reaffirmed at the January 2009 meeting.*

*Policy amended at the November 15, 2011 meeting.*

*Policy revised at the September 18, 2012 meeting.*

No more business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

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Bo Hamil, President  
The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy

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Date

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Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director  
The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy

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Date