

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
Rules Committee Minutes
Teleconference Meeting
June 2, 2015 - 08:30AM

Board Members Present

Dorothy Gaskin, PT, Committee Chair
Reid Lawson, PT, Board Member
Monty Strickland, PT, Board Member

Administrative Staff Present

Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Kathy Osier, Licensing Supervisor
Tamara Elliott, Board Support Specialist

Attorney General's Office

D. Williams-McNeely, Assistant Attorney General

Call to Order: Ms. Gaskin established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 8:33a.m.

OPEN SESSION

1) 490-9-.02 Conduct for Physical Therapist

The Committee recommends the Board vote to post BR 490-9-.02 as presented.

490-9-.02 ~~Principles of Conduct~~ Code of Ethics for Physical Therapists.

Any individual who is licensed as a physical therapist shall abide by [the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 43-33-18 to include but not limited to](#) the following ethical ~~Standard~~standards:

(1) Act with consideration, within the scope of physical therapy, for the rights and dignity of all individuals.

(a) The physical therapist shall hold as confidential information obtained while acting in a professional capacity.

(b) The physical therapist shall provide optimal physical therapy care for all patients regardless of patient race, gender, age, religion, disability or sexual preference.

(c) The physical therapist should balance considerations of the patient's physical, psychological and socioeconomic welfare in professional decisions and actions and document these considerations in the patient's record of care.

(d) The physical therapist shall communicate and interact with patients and all persons encountered in a professional capacity with courteous regard and timeliness.

(e) The physical therapist shall not engage in any behavior that constitutes harassment or abuse of a patient, professional colleague or associate.

(2) Comply with the laws and regulations governing the practice of physical therapy in the State of Georgia.

(a) Physical therapists are to practice (consultation, evaluations, treatment, research, education, administration and preventive care) in accordance with the state practice act.

(3) Accept responsibility for the exercise of sound judgment.

(a) When implementing treatment, physical therapists shall assume the responsibility for evaluating that individual; planning, implementing, and supervising the therapeutic program; reevaluating and changing the program; and maintaining adequate records of [the case, including progress reports.](#)

[\(b\) Documentation is to be generated in accordance with federal and state guidelines at the time of service or shortly thereafter.](#)~~(b) D.~~

(b)[\(c\)](#) When performing wellness and preventative services, physical therapists shall assume responsibility for providing optimal patient care.

(c)[\(d\)](#) When the individual's needs are beyond the scope of the physical therapist's expertise, the physical therapist shall so inform and assist the individual in identifying a qualified person to provide the necessary services.

(d)[\(e\)](#) When the physical therapists judge that benefit can no longer be obtained from their services, they shall so inform the individual receiving the services. It is unethical to

initiate or continue services that, in the therapist's judgment, either cannot result in beneficial outcome or are contraindicated.

(e)(f) The physical therapist's ability to make independent judgment must not be limited or compromised by professional affiliations, including employment relationships.

(f)(g) Physical therapists are not to delegate to a less qualified person any activity which requires the unique skills, knowledge, and judgment of a physical therapist.

(g)(h) The primary responsibility for physical therapy care assisted by supportive personnel rests with the supervising physical therapist. Adequate supervision requires, at a minimum, that a supervising physical therapist perform the following activities:

1. Establish effective channels of written and oral communication;
2. Interpret and communicate critical information about the patient to the supportive personnel;
3. Perform an initial evaluation of the patient;
4. Develop a plan of care, including short and long-term goals;
5. Delegate appropriate tasks to supportive personnel;
6. Assess the supportive personnel's competence to perform assigned tasks;
7. Provide supervision in accordance with the law, the patient's condition, and the specific situation;
8. Identify and document precautions, special programs, contraindications, goals, anticipated progress, and plans for re-evaluation;
9. Re-evaluate the patient, modify the plan of care when necessary, perform the final evaluation, and establish a follow-up plan.

(h) Physical therapists are obligated to advise their employer(s) of any practice which causes a physical therapist to be in conflict with the ethical principles of this section. Physical therapists are to attempt to rectify any aspect(s) of their employment which is in conflict with the principles of this section.

(4) Seek remuneration for their services that is deserved and reasonable.

(a) Fees for physical therapy services should be reasonable for the service performed, considering the setting in which it is provided, practice costs in the geographic area, judgment of other organizations, and other relevant factors.

(b) Physical therapists shall not:

1. directly or indirectly request, receive, or participate in the dividing, transferring, assigning, or rebating of an unearned fee;
2. profit by means of a credit or other valuable consideration, such as an unearned commission, discount, or gratuity in connection with furnishing of physical therapy services;
3. use influence upon individuals, or families of individuals under their care for utilization of any product or service based upon the direct or indirect financial interest of the physical therapist.

(5) Provide accurate information to the consumer about the profession and the services provided.

(a) Physical therapists are not to use, or participate in the use of, any form of communication containing false, plagiarized, fraudulent, misleading, deceptive, or unfair statements.

(6) Accept the responsibility to protect the public and the profession from unethical, incompetent, or illegal acts.

(a) Physical therapists shall report any activity which appears to be unethical, incompetent, or illegal to the proper authorities.

(b) Physical therapists shall not participate in any arrangement in which patients are exploited due to the referring sources enhancing their personal incomes as a result of referring, prescribing, or recommending physical therapy or a specific physical therapy practice.

(c) If a physical therapist is involved in an arrangement with a referring source in which income is derived from the services, the physical therapist has an obligation to disclose to the patient, within the scope of the state law, the nature of the income.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-3, 43-33-10, 43-33-13.1, 43-33-18. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Principles of Conduct for Licensed Physical Therapists" adopted. F. Jan. 29, 1997; eff. Feb. 18, 1997. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Jan. 19, 2005; eff. Feb. 8, 2005. **Repealed:** New Rule title "Principles of Conduct for Physical Therapists" adopted. No change in Rule text. F. Jan. 25, 2007; eff. Feb. 14, 2007.

2) **490-9-.03 Conduct for Physical Therapist Assistant**

The Committee recommends the Board vote to post BR 490-9-.03 as presented.

490-9-.03 ~~Principles of Conduct~~ Code of Ethics for Physical Therapist Assistants.

Any individual who is licensed as a physical therapist assistant shall abide by [the provisions of O.C.G.A. §43-33-18 to include but not limited to](#) the following ethical standards:

(1) Act with consideration, within the scope of physical therapy, for the rights and dignity of all individuals.

(a) The physical therapist assistant shall hold as confidential information obtained while functioning as a physical therapist assistant.

(b) The physical therapist assistant shall provide optimal physical therapy care for all patients delegated by the physical therapist regardless of patient race, gender, age, religion, disability or sexual preference.

(c) The physical therapist assistant should be aware of the patient's physical, psychological and socioeconomic welfare in decisions and actions taken while rendering treatment.

(d) The physical therapist assistant shall communicate and interact with patients and all persons encountered with courteous regard and timeliness.

(e) The physical therapist assistant shall not engage in any behavior that constitutes harassment or abuse of a patient, professional colleague or associate.

(2) Comply with the laws and regulations governing the practice of physical therapy in the State of Georgia.

(a) Physical therapist assistants are to practice only under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist.

(3) Accept responsibility for the exercise of sound judgment.

(a) Upon accepting delegation from a physical therapist, the physical therapist assistant shall provide services within the plan of care established by the physical therapist.

(b) When the individual's needs are beyond the scope of the physical therapist assistant's expertise, the physical therapist assistant shall inform the supervising physical therapist.

(c) When the physical therapist assistant determines that a change in the plan of care is needed, the assistant will contact the supervising physical therapist and request reevaluation of the patient's status.

(d) When the physical therapist assistant determines that the patient has received maximum benefits from physical therapy, he/she shall so inform the supervising physical therapist.

(e) Physical therapist assistants are not to delegate to a less qualified person any activity which requires the unique skills, knowledge, and judgment of a physical therapist assistant.

(f) The primary responsibility for physical therapy care assisted by supportive personnel rests with the supervising physical therapist. Adequate supervision is the responsibility of both the physical therapist and the physical therapist assistant. To insure appropriate supervision, the physical therapist assistant is expected to:

1. Maintain effective channels of written and oral communication.

2. Communicate critical information about the patient to the supervising physical therapist in a timely manner.

3. Function within the established plan of care.

4. Identify and document treatment activities and all special occurrences [in accordance to federal and state guidelines at the time of service or shortly thereafter](#).

5. Request re-evaluation of the patient and/or modification of the plan of care when

necessary.

(g) Physical therapist assistants are obligated to advise their employer(s) of any practice which causes a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant to be in conflict with the ethical principles of this section. Physical therapist assistants are to attempt to rectify any aspect(s) of their employment which is in conflict with the principles of this section.

4. Seek remuneration for their services that is deserved and reasonable.

(a) Physical therapist assistants shall not:

1. Directly or indirectly request, receive, or participate in the dividing, transferring, assigning, or rebating of an unearned fee;

2. Profit by means of a credit or other valuable consideration, such as an unearned commission, discount, or gratuity in connection with furnishing of physical therapy services;

3. Use influence upon individuals, or families of individuals under their care for utilization of any product or service based upon the direct or indirect financial interest of the physical therapist assistant;

(5) Provide accurate information to the consumer about the profession and the services provided.

(a) Physical therapist assistants are not to use, or participate in the use of, any form of communication containing false, plagiarized, fraudulent, misleading, deceptive, or unfair statements.

(6) Accept the responsibility to protect the public and the profession from unethical, incompetent, or illegal acts.

(a) Physical therapist assistants shall report any activity which appears to be unethical, incompetent, or illegal to the proper authorities.

(b) Physical therapist assistants shall not participate in any arrangement in which patients are exploited due to the referring sources enhancing their personal incomes as a result of referring, prescribing, or recommending physical therapy or a specific physical therapy practice.

(c) If a physical therapist assistant is involved in an arrangement with a referring source in which income is derived from the services, the physical therapist assistant has an obligation to disclose to the patient, within the scope of the State Law, the nature of the

[income.](#)

Authority O.C.G.A. Section 43-33-10. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Principles of Conduct for Licensed Physical Therapists Assistants" adopted. F. Feb. 27, 1998; eff. Mar. 19, 1998. **Repealed:** New Rule title "Principles of Conduct for Physical Therapist Assistants" adopted. No change in Rule text. F. Jan. 25, 2007; eff. Feb. 14, 2007.

3) **490-2-.09 Licensure: Endorsement**

The Committee recommends the Board vote to post BR 490-2-.09 as presented.

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 and/or cause a lawful licensing authority to provide evidence of passing scores on the national licensing examination.](#)

[\(e\) a passing score on the Georgia Jurisprudence 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.](#)

[\(e\) a passing score on the Georgia Jurisprudence 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.

[\(5\) Any applicant for licensure by endorsement who has not passed the national physical therapy examination by the fourth \(4th\) attempt will be required to submit proof of satisfactory completion of a Board approved 480 hour traineeship prior to the issuance of a license.](#)

[\(a\) The traineeship must be completed within three \(3\) months of the issuance of the traineeship permit.](#)

[\(b\) This requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Board if the applicant has demonstrated clinical competency by submitting documentation which reflects a minimum of five \(5\) years of continuous active practice and a license in good standing.](#)

[\(6\) Any applicant for licensure by endorsement who has not passed the Georgia Jurisprudence Examination after the third \(3rd\) attempt will be required to complete a Board approved course on Georgia Jurisprudence prior to being granted approval to take the exam a fourth \(4th\) time.](#)

[\(7\) Any applicant for licensure by endorsement who has not passed the Georgia Jurisprudence Examination after the fourth \(4th\) attempt will not be allowed to sit for the examination for a fifth \(5th\) time without additional coursework as deemed necessary by the Board.](#)

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.

4) 490-3-.02 Re-Examination

The Committee recommends the Board vote to post BR 490-3-.02 as presented.

490-3-.02 Re-examination.

(1) An applicant who fails the [national physical therapy](#) examination on the first attempt may submit a reexamination application to the Board to be made eligible to test a second time.

(2) An applicant who fails the [national physical therapy](#) examination on the second attempt must submit the following before being made eligible to test a third time:

(a) A copy of his/her “Examination Performance Feedback Report” obtained from the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT), and pay all costs associated with acquiring the report.

(b) A remediation plan addressing each area of weakness/failure. Examination preparation courses will be considered provided that such course addresses the area(s) of weakness/failure. The remediation plan must be developed in consultation with an appropriately licensed physical therapist or physical therapy assistant, or by a faculty

member of a CAPTE-accredited program.

(c) Proof of satisfactory completion of such remediation plan.

1. (3) An applicant may be approved administratively to take the examination a third (3rd) time after the above outlined procedure has been completed and approved.

~~(3) An applicant who fails the examination three (3) or more times must submit a remediation plan as outlined above in 490-2-.02(2)(a) and (b). The remediation plan must be approved by the Board prior to the applicant's beginning or initiating the plan. An applicant may be approved to take the examination only after proof of satisfactory completion of the approved plan has been submitted.~~

(4) Any applicant who did not pass the national physical therapy examination by the fourth (4th) attempt will be required to complete a board approved 480 hour traineeship upon passing the examination and prior to the issuance of a license.

(5) Applicants for licensure who have not passed the national physical therapy examination or Georgia Jurisprudence Examination by the fourth (4th) attempt will not be allowed to sit for the examinations a fifth (5th) time without extensive further study, which may include completing a physical therapy educational program approved by CAPTE or additional coursework as deemed necessary by the Board.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-2, 43-1-7, 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-12 to 43-33-14, 43-33-18.

History. Original Rule entitled "Re-examination" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Mar. 8, 1971; eff. Mar. 28, 1971. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Sept. 15, 1971; eff. Oct. 5, 1971. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Apr. 29, 1973; eff. May 10, 1973. **Amended:** F. Oct. 17, 1975; eff. Nov. 6, 1975. **Repealed:** New Rule entitled "Re-examinations" adopted. F. Mar. 19, 1982; eff. Apr. 8, 1982. **Repealed:** New Rule entitled "Re-examination" adopted. F. Nov. 27, 1984; eff. Dec. 17, 1984. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Mar. 22, 1989; eff. Apr. 11, 1989. **Amended:** F. May 13, 1991; eff. June 2, 1991. **Amended:** F. Jan. 24, 1995; eff. Feb. 13, 1995. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 26, 2005; eff. June 15, 2005.

5) 490-2-.04 Training Permits

The Committee recommends the Board vote to post BR 490-2-.04 as presented.

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~~ are eligible to take the national licensing examination, ~~have not failed the national licensing examination and have taken and passed~~ ~~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.

6. graduates of entry-level programs for physical therapists or physical therapist assistants from either a CAPTE or a non-CAPTE-accredited school may apply and may be granted a one-time (1) post graduation sixty (60) day traineeship for purposes of application and ~~passage of the~~ passage of the national licensing exam.

(i) the effective date of the sixty (60) days starts the date of graduation and terminates sixty (60) days later.

(ii) failure to take the examination or to pass the examination requires immediate forfeiture of the traineeship.

(iii) an examination on the laws and rules governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia must also be passed ~~during this time~~ prior to initiation of the training permit.

(iv) this special training permit may not be renewed or applied for again.

(v) all other rules and policies regulating CAPTE and non-CAPTE applicants are in effect.

(vi) Hours from this special traineeship can be used towards satisfaction of other required traineeship hours.

(b) Initial Applications and Reinstatement Applications.

1. A notarized training permit application form must be submitted by the trainee's Primary 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 supervisors 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 take or pass the licensing examination is not considered a good and exceptional reason and requires immediate forfeiture of the traineeship. 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~~ one 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 Primary supervisor.

(III) the trainee takes and does not pass the national licensing examination.

(e) Supervision.

1. The Primary supervisor or alternate 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~~ new supervisor must be approved by the Board. The trainee may not participate in direct patient care until ~~an alternate~~ a new supervisor is approved by the Board. The ~~alternate~~ new supervisor will assure compliance with all terms and obligations outlined in this rule.

3. The supervisor ~~or approved~~ and 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 to include cosigning any documentation provided by the trainee. 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 Primary 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.

7. The supervisor must notify the Board when the trainee passes the national licensing examination and satisfactorily completes the traineeship.

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.

6) **Policy #2 Examination applications**

The Committee recommends the Board vote to accept the following changes in Policy 2:

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

(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.

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

(C) An applicant that has not passed the national physical therapy examination [or the Georgia Jurisprudence 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 [or additional coursework as deemed necessary by the Board](#).

(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.

7) **Policy #3 Endorsement Applications**

The Committee recommends the Board vote to accept the following changes in Policy 3:

Policy #3 - Endorsement applications

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

(B) Endorsement applicants who have passed the examination within one (1) year of graduation may apply by examination instead of endorsement and must submit verification of licensure from every state in which they have held a license.

(C) All endorsement applicants must take and pass the electronic Georgia Jurisprudence exam. Candidates must register for the exam through the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT). [An applicant who has not passed the Georgia Jurisprudence exam by the 4th time will not be allowed to sit for the exam a 5th time without evidence of completion of additional Jurisprudence coursework as deemed necessary by the Board.](#)

Policy approved at the September 18, 2007 meeting.

Policy reaffirmed at the January 2009 meeting.

Policy revised at June 19, 2010 meeting.

Policy revised at November 18, 2014 meeting.

8) **Policy #16 Telehealth – convert to rule**

The Committee recommends the Board convert Policy 16 to Board Rule 490-9-.06 and vote to post as presented.

490-9-.06 Telehealth

(1) The purpose of this rule is to define and establish guidelines for the practice of telehealth by the spectrum of technologies involving interactive physical therapy services.

(2) Telehealth has been defined as the use of electronic communications to provide and deliver a host of health related information and health care services including, but not limited to physical therapy related information and services, over large and small distances. Telehealth encompasses a variety of health care and health promotion activities including, but not limited to, education, advice, reminders, interventions, and monitoring of interventions. All provisions of Physical Therapy utilizing telehealth mechanisms must:

(a) conform to all statutes, rules and policies governing the practice of physical therapy in the State of Georgia.

(b) With the exception of practices and services identified in O.C.G.A. § 43-33-11(d), individuals providing physical therapy via telehealth to a patient/client in the State of Georgia must be licensed in the State of Georgia.

(c) A physical therapist that is licensed in another jurisdiction of the United States may provide a consultation via telehealth to a physical therapist in the state of Georgia.

Authority: O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-33-10; 43-33-11(d)

9) **New Rule Disaster Relief**

The Committee recommends the Board vote to post Board Rule 490-12-.01 as presented.

490-12-.01 Practice of Physical Therapy During A Declared Natural Disaster

1) Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 43-33-11, a person currently licensed in another state who is present in the state of Georgia to provide physical therapy services during a declared local, jurisdictional, or national disaster or emergency may do so without penalty for a period not to exceed a total of 60 days during any 12 month period provided that the practice of physical therapy is not contrary to the laws, rules and regulations governing of this state.

2) Upon discovering that a physical therapist has violated any laws, rules and regulations of this state or continued to practice in the state of Georgia beyond 60 days during any 12 month period, the Board shall have the authority issue cease and desist order prohibiting the practice of physical therapy without a license.

Authority: O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-19, 43-1-20.1, 43-33-10, 43-33-11, 43-33-18;

10) **FAQ - Waiver request for Foreign Trained Traineeship**

The Committee recommends the Board vote to accept the following additional language to the FAQs regarding waiver requests for Foreign Trained Applicants.

What can I do if I am unable to meet a requirement for licensure?

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-13-9.1, an applicant for licensure may submit a Petition for Variance or Waiver of a rule(s) if he or she finds that he or she would otherwise qualify for licensure if the strict application of a rule(s) will lead to unreasonable, uneconomical, and unintended results in their particular instance. In order to exercise this option, the applicant must do the following:

1) Download the Petition for Rule Variance or Waiver form from the board website.

2) Complete the form in its **entirety**. If a section of the form is not applicable, place N/A on the line to show that the question and/or section was not overlooked

3) Attach a copy of **any documentation** which supports your claims, i.e. employment verifications, resume, educational documentation, medical records, financial reports, etc. The documentation submitted must support how you meet the qualifications of this board as well as how the strict application of the rule(s) you desire to vary or waive can cause a *significant, unique, and demonstrable* economic, technological, legal, or other type of hardship which will impair your ability to continue to function in the practice or business of physical therapy.

A failure to follow any of the steps indicated above will result in the denial of the Petition for Rule Variance or Waiver based on insufficient evidence to support a claim of substantial hardship.

Adjournment- With no additional business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45am.

Minutes recorded by:

Tamara Elliott, Board Support Specialist

Minutes reviewed and edited by:

Kathy Osier, Licensing Supervisor and Adrienne Price, Executive Director

Minutes approved on:

July 21, 2015

DOROTHY GASKIN
COMMITTEE CHAIR

ADRIENNE PRICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR