

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
**Special Projects Committee Minutes**  
**Teleconference Meeting**  
**November 9, 2016 – 11:30AM**

The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy Special Projects Committee met on Wednesday, November 9, 2016. The following members were present:

**Committee Members Present**

Stefanie Palma, PT – Committee Chair  
Charles Bass, PT - Board Member  
Jesse Crews, PT – Board Member

**Administrative Staff Present**

Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
Kathy Osier, Licensing Supervisor  
Michelle Foster, Board Support Specialist

**Committee Members Absent**

No members absent.

**Visitors Present**

No visitors present.

**Call to Order:** Dr. Palma established that a quorum of the committee was present and called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Discussion – Board Rule 490-4-.02 Continuing Competence Requirements – Amended for PTAG and E&J Approval**

The Committee was charged to determine if the Board should consider implementing a process that will allow another entity, such as the Physical Therapy Association of Georgia (PTAG), to approve continuing education courses relevant to Georgia Ethics and Jurisprudence and if so, to determine some guidelines for the review process and suggest amendments to the rules and policies.

The Committee determined that by allowing PTAG to review the Georgia Ethics and Jurisprudence courses which are not offered by Georgia universities and colleges, the Board will be able to concentrate on evaluating the content of other courses and how they may increase the competency of the practitioner. The Committee based their conclusions on three points: 1) The value and improved quality of the Ethics and Jurisprudence courses is paramount to ensuring safe practice within the confines of the laws and rules; 2) The Board can provide the guidelines for approval of the Continuing Education courses to PTAG in order to ensure that the course content hinges on the current state practice act, current Board rules and policies; thus the Board still maintains the authority to determine if the course qualifies as an appropriate course; and 3) These changes to the rule will support the Board's efforts to ensure safe and effective practice in the state of Georgia.

The Committee made amendments to Board Rule 4904-4.02 based upon their determinations and further indicated that the policy which states that a licensee may only obtain 10 hours of continuing education per calendar day be added into the language of the rules. The committee members indicated that the basis for recommending this change is the fact that the licensees do not appear to be reviewing the policies as they should. By adding the language to the rule, it will help to increase awareness.

The Committee recommended to refer the proposed amendment to Board Rule 490-4-.02 to the full Board with the recommendation that the Board post the amendment for hearing. The purpose of the amendments is to improve the quality of Continuing Education related to Georgia Ethics and Jurisprudence courses by allowing Georgia colleges and universities and PTAG the ability to approve Georgia Ethics and Jurisprudence Courses, in accordance with the guidelines established by the Board; to establish a date by which the approval process becomes effective; and to further clarify when licensees may use the GA-JAM to satisfy continuing competence requirements and how many continuing competence hours may be obtained in one calendar day. The Committee recommended that the approval

process for Georgia Ethics and Jurisprudence courses not constitute an immediate change but approval of such courses by Georgia colleges and universities and PTAG begin at the start of the next biennium.

### **Rule 490-4-.02. Continuing Competence Requirements**

(1) The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy requires each licensed physical therapist and physical therapist assistant to participate in ~~a minimum number of~~ thirty (30) clock hours of experience per licensure period ~~to promote continuing competence~~ which is not to exceed ten (10) credit hours per calendar day. The purpose of this requirement is to assist in assuring safe and effective practices in the provision of physical therapy services to the citizens of Georgia.

(a) The Board recommends the requirements for competence as planned learning experiences which have content beyond the licensee's present level of knowledge and competence which may be subject to audit by the board.

(b) Content of the experience must relate to patient care in physical therapy whether the subject is research, treatment, documentation, education, management, or some other content area. ~~The purpose of this requirement is to assist in assuring safe and effective practices in the provision of physical therapy services to the citizens of Georgia.~~

(c) In the event that a licensee does not meet ~~the~~ continuing competence -requirement, the license will not be renewed.

(2) The thirty (30) hours of continuing competence ~~requirements~~ per biennium shall include a minimum of four (4) contact hours specifically in ethics and jurisprudence as defined in the Georgia Physical Therapy Act or by passage of the Georgia Jurisprudence Examination.

(a) An ethics and jurisprudence course must be obtained from a Georgia college or university with an accredited physical therapy education program or a provider which holds a current, unencumbered Physical Therapy Association of Georgia (PTAG) Approval Certificate.

(b) Passage of the Georgia jurisprudence examination is equivalent to the four (4) hour continuing competence requirement and may be submitted to meet the Georgia Ethics and Jurisprudence requirement for the renewal of the license provided that the same test result has not been previously submitted to the Board as part of an application for licensure or to satisfy the requirements of an order of the Board and the examination was taken during the current biennium.

(3) The following programs and activities may be considered for approval, but are not limited to:

- (a) Programs approved by the American Physical Therapy Association and its affiliate components; or
- (b) Programs approved by the Physical Therapy Association of Georgia or any other state chapters; or
- (c) Programs approved by the Federation of State boards of Physical Therapy (Procert); or
- (d) Programs provided at CAPTE-Accredited colleges and universities with programs in physical therapy when the continuing competency course is held under the auspices of the school of physical therapy; or
- (e) Programs offered by similar professional organizations offering experiences that meet the guidelines set forth in paragraph one.
- (f) Fifteen (15) hours for undergoing a peer review; or

- (g) Ten (10) hours for conducting a peer review when that activity is an adjunct responsibility and not the primary employment; or
- (h) Participation as a presenter for continuing education courses, workshops, seminars or symposia which have been approved by the approved list above; Continuing competence credit is based on contact hours and may not exceed 10 hours per topic;
- (i) Authorship of a presented scientific poster, scientific platform presentation or published article; Continuing competence credit is 10 hours per even and may not exceed 20 hours;
- (j) Teaching a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant credit course when that teaching is an adjunct responsibility and not the primary employment; Continuing competence credit is based on contact hours not to exceed 20 hours;
- (k) Certification of clinical specialization by the American Board of Physical therapy Specialties. Continuing competence credit is 30 hours and is recognized only in the biennium in which certification or recertification is awarded.
- (l) Self - instruction from reading professional literature; Continuing competence credit is limited to a maximum of three (3) hours; or
- (m) Attendance at a scientific poster session, lecture, panel, symposium or university course Continuing competence credit is one hour per contact hour of activity; or
- (n) Acting as a clinical education instructor for an accredited physical therapist or physical therapist assistant educational program; Continuing competence credit is one (1) hour per eight (8) contact hours with a maximum credit of 10 hours; or
- (o) Acting as a clinical instructor or an intern for a formal, nonacademic, advanced clinical internship or as a mentor or a learner for a formal, nonacademic mentorship with a maximum credit of 10 hours.
- (p) Donating time in the role of a Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant, within the scope of practice, to a charity event; Continuing competence credit is one (1) hour per eight (8) contact hours, limited to a maximum of five (5) hours;
- (q) Reference Policy 13
- (r) Post professional physical therapist educational programs that award academic credit are counted as one (1) university credit hour equaling ten (10) continuing competence hours. For example, a two (2) credit hour course in which a passing grade is achieved would equal twenty (20) continuing competence hours.

(24) Unacceptable activities for continuing competence include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Orientation and in-service programs;
- (b) Meetings for purposes of policy decisions;
- (c) Non-educational meeting at annual association, chapter or organization meetings;
- (d) Entertainment or recreational meeting or activities;
- (e) Committee meetings, holdings of offices, serving as an organization delegate;
- (f) Visiting exhibits;
- (g) CPR.

- (35) Continuing competence requirements shall apply within the first biennium that a physical therapist/physical therapist assistant is licensed in Georgia. However, licensees who have graduated during the current renewal biennium and who have passed the National Physical Therapy Examination are exempt from the continuing competence requirement during the biennium in which they have graduated and successfully passed the exam.
- (46) Beginning the January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2016 biennium and thereafter, persons licensed to practice as a physical therapist or a physical therapy assistant or who shall file an application to practice as such in this state are to maintain a record of completed continuing education courses and experiences by registering with an online recording and reporting system approved by the Board.
- (a) For the purposes of this requirement, the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy adopts the utilization of aPTitude offered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT).
  - (b) Licensees and applicants shall incur no additional costs from the FSBPT for this service.
  - (c) Every licensee or applicant subject to the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy shall be deemed to have given such person's consent to the Board and its representatives to access their continuing competence record retained within the online database for the purposes of auditing and verifying completion of the Board's continuing competency requirements. Such person waives all objections to the admissibility of the record in any proceedings or hearings before the board.
- (57) Individuals licensed during the last six (6) months of a biennium renewal period will not be required to meet continuing competence requirements for that biennium.
- (68) Individuals who have been reinstated within the last six (6) months of a biennium renewal period may use the continuing competence coursework used for reinstatement, thereby making them exempt from the requirement for that biennium renewal period.
- (79) Those licensees selected for audit shall submit the Verification of Continuing Competence form and documentation of compliance upon receipt of notice. Acceptable documentation shall include:
- (a) An official program or outline of the course attended or taught or a copy of the publication which clearly shows that the objectives and content were related to patient care in physical therapy and shows the number of contact hours, as appropriate. The information also should clearly identify the licensee's responsibility in teaching or authorship; and
  - (b) A certificate or verification of completion of home study which identifies the sponsoring entity or maintain a copy of the final grade report in the case of a University credit course(s), or specialization certificate, or proof of attendance with a copy of the program for the other acceptable activities, or documentation of self-instruction or reading professional literature; or
  - (c) Verification of a peer review of practice with verification of acceptable practice by a recognized entity. An example of a recognized entity is the American Physical Therapy Association Board Policy (See APTA Policy G03-05-15-40).
- (810) Responsibilities of the Licensee:
- (a) To maintain the documents identified in number (4) above for no less than three (3) years from the beginning date of the licensure period. These records should be maintained in the licensee's personal files for no less than three (3) years from the beginning date of the licensure period through the even numbered year after the license is renewed.
  - (b) To submit a properly completed and notarized "Verification of Competence Education" form to the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy, if audited.

- (c) To complete all steps necessary to meet the re-licensure requirements on or before December 31st of the odd numbered years.
- (d) To provide the Board with information requested during an audit.
- (e) To keep a current mailing address on file with the Licensing Board Office at all times.

**Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 490-4-.02**

**Authority:** O.C.G.A. §§ [43-1-24](#), [43-1-25](#), [43-33-10](#), [43-33-11](#) and [43-33-16](#).

**History.** Original Rule entitled "Revocation, Refusal to Renew" was filed and effective on June 30, 1965.

**Amended:** Rule repealed and a new Rule of the same title adopted. Filed April 20, 1973; effective May 10, 1973.

**Amended:** Rule repealed and a new Rule entitled "Disciplinary Sanctions" adopted. Filed December 15, 1982; effective January 4, 1983.

**Amended:** Rule repealed and a new Rule of the same title adopted. Filed February 4, 1985; effective February 24, 1985.

**Amended:** Filed February 28, 1986; effective March 20, 1986.

**Amended:** Rule renumbered as Rule [490-4-.03](#) and a new Rule entitled "Continuing Education Requirements" adopted. Filed January 28, 1987; effective February 17, 1987.

**Amended:** Filed June 26, 1987; effective July 16, 1987.

**Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Mar. 22, 1989; eff. Apr. 11, 1989.

**Amended:** F. Aug. 24, 1989; eff. Sept. 13, 1989.

**Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Jul. 22, 1999; eff. Aug. 11, 1999.

**Amended:** F. May 9, 2000; eff. May 29, 2000.

**Amended:** F. May 19, 2004; eff. June 8, 2004.

**Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. June 22, 2007; eff. July 12, 2007.

**Repealed:** New Rule of the same title adopted. F. May 12, 2010; eff. June 1, 2010.

**Amended:** F. May 17, 2011; eff. June 6, 2011.

**Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 25, 2012; eff. Jun. 14, 2012.

**Amended:** F. May 23, 2013; eff. Jun. 12, 2013.

**Amended:** F. Jan. 16, 2015; eff. Feb. 5, 2015.

The Committee further recommended Dr. Palma establish guidelines for review of the Georgia Ethics and Jurisprudence Course to present at the upcoming Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy meeting on Tuesday, November 15, 2016.

**Adjournment:** With no additional business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

**Minutes recorded by:**

Michelle Foster, Board Support Specialist

**Minutes reviewed and edited by:**

Kathy Osier, Licensing Supervisor, Adrienne Price, Executive Director

**Minutes approved on:**

November 15, 2016

STEFANIE PALMA  
**COMMITTEE CHAIR**

ADRIENNE PRICE  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**