

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
**Rules Committee Teleconference**  
**Professional Licensing Boards**  
**237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, GA**  
**March 5, 2013 \* 8:30 a.m.**

**Committee Members Present:**

Charlene Portee  
Dorothy Gaskin  
Monty Strickland  
Bo Hamil

**Staff Present:**

Tanja Battle, Executive Director  
Tamara Elliott, Board Support Specialist

Charlene Portee established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 8:32a.m.

**Open Session**

**Review of GA State Board Physical Therapy Policy 7**

Dr. Portee explained to the Committee that paragraph 1 of Policy #7 must be amended as the Federation will not be handling the Jurisprudence Exam. Ms. Gaskin asked the Committee if this impacts new graduates taking the exam. Dr. Portee and Mr. Hamil answered that new graduates still have to take the exam. Dr. Portee asked if there was feedback received regarding the Prometric fee. Ms. Battle mentioned that the Federation understood the Board's position; however, there was no further discussion about eliminating the additional fee.

Mr. Hamil recommends removing the paragraph below:

**Policy #7 - Continuing Competence Policy**

~~The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy requires that each licensed physical therapist and physical therapist assistant must take and pass the electronic GA Jurisprudence Exam through the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy effective 2013.~~

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 to promote continuing competence (CC) per licensure period. **The Board has defined 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.** 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. In the event that a licensee does not meet this requirement; the license will not be renewed.

On-line CC may be considered as Class I or Class II dependent upon the course content.

**The following programs may be considered for Class I 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; 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 provided by the American Academy of Physical Therapy; or
- (f) Programs approved by another state board; or
- (g) Programs provided at JCAHO-accredited healthcare organizations; or
- (h) Programs provided by the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons; or
- (i) Programs provided by the National Athletic Trainers Association; or
- (j) Programs provided by the American Dental Association; or
- (k) Programs provided by the American Association of Nurses; or
- (l) Programs provided by the American Occupational Therapy Association; or
- (m) Fifteen (15) hours for undergoing a peer review; or

- (n) Ten (10) hours for conducting a peer review when that activity is an adjunct responsibility and not the primary employment; or
- (o) 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;
- (p) Authorship of a presented scientific poster, scientific platform presentation or published article; Continuing competence credit is 10 hours per event and may not exceed 20 hours;
- (q) 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;
- (r) 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.
- (s) Post professional physical therapist educational programs that award academic credit are counted as one (1) university credit hour equaling ten (10) continuing competency hours. For example, a two (2) credit hour course in which a passing grade is achieved would equal twenty (20) continuing competency hours.

**The following programs may be considered for Class II approval (limited to 10 hours):**

- (a) Self- instruction from reading professional literature; Continuing competence credit is limited to a maximum of five (5) hours; or
- (b) Attendance at a scientific poster session, lecture, panel, symposium or university course that does not meet the criteria for Class I; Continuing competency credit is one hour per contact hour of activity; or
- (c) 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; or
- (d) 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.

*Policy approved at the October 31, 2007 meeting.*

*Policy reaffirmed at the January 2009 meeting.*

*Policy revised at June 19, 2010 meeting*

*Policy amended at the November 3, 2009 meeting (addressing on-line courses)*

*Policy amended at the March 2011 meeting (adding (s))*

*Policy amended at the May 2011 meeting (amended (s))*

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

**Review of Rule regarding Licensure: Foreign-Educated Applicants 490-2-.03**

The Committee discussed the Board's current lack of discretion regarding the requirement of a traineeship for all foreign-educated applicants. After discussion, the Committee recommended the following underlined language.

**490-2-.03 Licensure: Foreign-Educated Applicants.**

- (1) All applicants who are graduates of educational programs conducted in a foreign country that are not accredited by CAPTE and approved by the Board must submit credentials prescribed by the Board in order to be considered for approval to take the licensing examination.
  - (a) Transcripts must be evaluated by a credential evaluation agency approved by the Board, to determine if the professional instruction is substantially equivalent to that of entry-level United States-educated therapists. The credentialing evaluation agency shall send its evaluation and a copy of the official transcript directly to the Board. A list of credentialing agencies approved by the Board shall be included in each application packet. Additional lists may be obtained from the Board office.
  - (b) Proof of licensure/certification/registration, that is current and in good standing, to practice physical therapy, or proof of appropriate eligibility to practice physical therapy, in the country of education must be submitted.
  - (c) Verification of licensure/certification/registration in all jurisdictions in which the candidate holds or has ever held a license/certification/registration must be submitted.
  - (d) Applicants educated in a non-English speaking physical therapy program must take and receive passing scores on three (3) language proficiency examinations to include the Test of Spoken English (TSE): passing score of 50; Test of English as a Foreign

Language (TOEFL): passing score of 560 pencil & paper/220 computerized; and Test of Written English (TWE): passing score of 4.5, before being allowed to sit for the licensure examination. Official score results must be submitted to the Board.

(e) Applicants educated in an English speaking physical therapy program must have a school official submit an official letter to the Board attesting that the physical therapy curriculum was taught in English.

(f) Once a completed application is on file and prior to initiation of a traineeship, all foreign educated applicants must take and pass the NPTE 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.

(g) All foreign-educated applicants must complete a Board-approved traineeship consisting of a minimum of 480 hours, which must be completed within three (3) months of the issuance of the traineeship permit. *This requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Board if the applicant has demonstrated clinical competency with a minimum of 5 years of continuous active practice and license in good standing.*

(2) Applicants educated in a foreign physical therapy program that is accredited by CAPTE and approved by the Board, do not have to submit a credentials evaluation and must meet the conditions of Board Rule 490-2-.02.

Dr. Portee made a motion to recommend the above-mentioned changes to the full Board at the meeting in March. Ms. Gaskin seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

No more business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 8:57a.m.

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Bo Hamil, President  
The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy

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Date

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Tanja D. Battle, Executive Director  
The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy

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Date